



House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) kisses House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) after he was re-elected as speaker at the Capitol Building in Washington, Jan. 6, 2015. Two dozen Republicans voted against Boehner, diminishing somewhat what should have been a day of euphoria for the party as Republicans assumed control of both houses of Congress for the first time in eight years.

(Jabin Botsford/The New York Times)

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Republicans take full control of US Congress

STEVEN R. HURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans took control of both chambers of the U.S. Congress on Tuesday, setting the stage for fierce partisan battles that could consume the final two years of Barack Obama's presidency.

Before the new Congress was two hours old, a veto showdown with Obama was set as the White House announced he would reject legislation approving the long-stalled Keystone XL pipeline, which Republicans intend to advance. Also in the Republicans' sights: Obama's signature health care law, other key environmental and business regulations, and the president's recent executive actions on immigration sparing millions from deportation.

The Republicans are emboldened after pummeling the Democrats in the November elections, taking the Senate and expanding their majority in the House of Representatives.

The party is now in charge of both branches of Congress for the first time since Obama took office, summoning unity despite an unsuccessful tea party-backed effort to unseat House Speaker John Boehner.

Boehner said Republicans will seek Obama's support for measures on jobs, energy and veterans. "It will be a sign the logjam is breaking," Boehner declared.

"Hard work awaits," said the new Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell

of Kentucky. "I'm really optimistic about what we can accomplish."

At the White House, Obama congratulated the pair and said he was looking forward to working with them.

"There are going to be areas where we disagree,

of clashes and, perhaps, occasional cooperation that will help shape the outcomes of the 2016 presidential and congressional elections.

The president has sent a message that he's still relevant and infuriated Republicans with a series of high-

stone measure is opposed by environmental groups and many rank-and-file Democrats. A similar bill passed the House but died in the Democratic-led Senate late last year.

Republican leaders now intend to push the bill through the House late this

not be undermined by legislation.

Despite the looming clashes, Republican leaders and the White House have indicated there is potential for cooperation on issues like trade, tax reform and infrastructure spending. The challenge for leaders of both parties will be facing down pressure from their more ideological members.

Obama might face pressure from his party's liberal wing if he tries to work out a deal with congressional Republicans on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade deal that 12 nations are trying to negotiate.

Senate liberals, led by Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren and independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, have declared opposition to the trans-Pacific trade deal, contending it would benefit global corporations at the expense of American workers.

As House leader, Boehner has seen his efforts to forge compromises thwarted in recent years by lawmakers aligned with the conservative tea party movement. But his hand is considerably stronger this year as a result of the Republican electoral triumph. The party will hold its biggest House majority in nearly 70 years.

His re-election Tuesday was marred by 25 Republicans who voted against him, but many Republican lawmakers dismissed the challenge as a needless distraction at a moment when the party should be celebrating its new majorities and showing voters it can lead. □



House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) administers the oath of office to newly-elected members of the House at the Capitol Building in Washington, Jan. 6, 2015. Two dozen Republicans voted against Boehner's re-election as speaker, diminishing somewhat what should have been a day of euphoria for the party as Republicans assumed control of both houses of Congress for the first time in eight years.

(Jabin Botsford/The New York Times)

and there will be some pitched battles, but I'm also confident that there are enormous areas of potential agreement," Obama said. "I wish them well and I think we're going to hopefully have a productive 2015."

Obama plans to meet with the new congressional leadership next week as both sides positioned themselves for two years

profile presidential moves, including steps toward normalizing relations with Cuba. And no matter what the Republican Congress passes, Obama retains the power to veto legislation, an action he's taken only twice in six years.

At the top of the Republican agenda is a veto showdown with Obama over the oil pipeline from Canada to Texas. The Key-

week, and appear to be close to having enough votes to clear it through the Senate as well.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Tuesday he does not expect Obama would sign any Keystone legislation that reaches his desk.

Earnest said a "well-established" review process is being run by the U.S. State Department that should



At funeral for Mario Cuomo, praise for a 'humanist' leader

MARC SANTORA

© 2015 New York Times

NEW YORK - Former Gov. Mario M. Cuomo was eulogized on Tuesday by his son, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, who called his father "the keynote speaker for our better angels."

To a crowd of hundreds that included Bill and Hillary Clinton and Mayor Bill de Blasio, the sitting governor praised his father as a "humanist," more than a politician, whose "politics were more of a personal belief system: It was who he was, not what he did." The funeral service, held at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, was the final public tribute to the three-term Democratic governor.

"Mario himself made it quite clear that he wanted a simple local funeral," the Rev. George M. Witt, the pastor at the church, said at the beginning of the service.

But the ceremony carried the hallmarks of an official send-off for a statesman, held in one of New York City's more stunning churches, with state troop-



New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo comforts his mother, Matilda Cuomo, at the end of the funeral service for his father, former Gov. Mario Cuomo, outside the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York, Jan. 6, 2015.

(Damon Winter/The New York Times)

ers standing at attention outside and scores of political leaders inside.

Witt acknowledged that the former governor's request was "hard to pull off." Gov. Cuomo remembered his father as being motivated by his own deeply

held belief system and fully at peace with himself, regardless of the reaction from others or the political backlash.

He recalled sharing an Albany apartment with his father when they were young, drinking wine and

debating politics. He reminisced about his father's zeal playing one-on-one in basketball, and his singular tenacity.

Gov. Cuomo acknowledged that his father was frustrated by some of the realities of being governor,

like the tedium of running a sprawling bureaucracy and sparring with legislators.

But he cared about bettering the lives of the people of New York, about being a force for good, and, above all else, about doing the right thing.

"At his core, at his best, he was a philosopher, and he was a poet, and he was an advocate, and he was a crusader," Gov. Cuomo said.

Mario Cuomo led New York as governor from 1983 through 1994. His keynote address at the 1984 Democratic National Convention catapulted him to the national stage, with many questioning, still today, why the popular governor never ran for higher office.

"Why didn't he run for president, people ask? Because he didn't want to. That's all," his son said Tuesday.

For a man known for reflection, the funeral was chance for others to reflect on Cuomo one last time before he was laid to rest. □

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2 arrested in shooting of NYC police officers

COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Police arrested two people Tuesday in the shooting of two New York City plainclothes police officers responding to a grocery store robbery, authorities said.

The shooting occurred around 10:30 p.m. Monday. The officers were coming off their shift when they and three other plainclothes officers responded to the robbery report.

One suspect was captured Tuesday, about 12 hours after the shooting in the Bronx. Another turned up at the hospital with a gunshot wound in his arm and doctors notified police.

Charges are pending.

The officers were coming off their shift Monday night when they responded to a report of a grocery store robbery. They approached suspects at a Chinese restaurant. The shooter opened fire from inside the restaurant, and police fired back.

"They went above and beyond the call to protect their fellow New Yorkers. Thank God the officers are doing well and will recover," Mayor Bill de Blasio said at the hospital where the officers are recovering.

The shooting came about



Police stand guard, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015, at the area where police and suspects exchanged gunfire the night before, in the Bronx borough of New York. Police arrested two people Tuesday in the shooting of two New York City plainclothes police officers responding to a grocery store robbery, authorities said.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

two weeks after two officers were fatally shot while sitting in their patrol car in Brooklyn, and on the same day that the city touted record low crime levels. Those death of the two officers raised tensions between police and de Blasio. Police unions said the mayor has stoked anti-police sentiment by supporting protests against the police killings of unarmed black men in New York and Missouri. □

At Press Time:

Active shooter reported at El Paso, Texas military hospital

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — The Army is searching for a suspect after an "active shooter" was reported at a Texas military hospital.

Fort Bliss spokesman Gil Telles says an "active shooter" has been confirmed at the William Beaumont Army Medical Center

in El Paso. Telles says he has no information on casualties or arrests. However, the entire hospital complex and its adjacent veterans' hospital have been placed on lockdown.

The incident was reported shortly before 4 p.m. local time Tuesday. □

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US Financial Front:

American services firms grew at steady pace in December



A construction worker clears wood from a platform that spans the Penn Station railroad tracks in midtown Manhattan, in New York. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, issued its index of non-manufacturing activity for December on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. services firms expanded at a solid but much slower pace in December com-

pared with the previous month, a sign growth may have cooled at the end of last year.

The Institute for Supply Management said Tuesday that

its services index fell to 56.2 last month, down from 59.3 in November. Yet the drop comes from a very high level: November's reading was near an eight-year

high of 59.6 reached in August. Any reading over 50 indicates expansion.

The decline echoes a similar drop in the ISM's manufacturing index, released last Friday. Both indexes fell from strong readings in November, but are still showing steady levels of expansion. Hiring picked up last year and gas prices have fallen, leaving more Americans with money to spend. That benefits retailers, hotels, restaurants and other service providers.

Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist, said the two ISM surveys are consistent with an economy growing at a 3 percent annual rate. That's solid, though below the breakneck 4.8 percent pace in the April-September period.

"Don't interpret this survey as a sign that the outlook has weakened," Dales said in a note to clients. "On the contrary, the further fall in oil prices has actually

made things even better." A measure of sales fell sharply and a gauge of orders also declined, evidence that business may slow a bit this month. But growth in hiring was just slightly below November's reading, suggesting that job gains last month were still healthy. That's a good sign ahead of the government's jobs report for December, which will be released Friday.

The ISM is a trade group of purchasing managers. Its survey of services firms covers businesses that employ 90 percent of the American workforce, including retail, construction, health care and financial services companies.

December's reading in the services index was close to last year's average of 56.3. The overall economy expanded rapidly in 2014 after harsh winter weather caused a contraction in the first quarter. □



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U.S. factory orders fell 0.7% in November; 4th straight month

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders to U.S. factories fell for a fourth straight month in November, with demand in a key category that signals business investment plans down for a third month.

The Commerce Department said Tuesday factory orders dropped 0.7 percent in November after a similar 0.7 percent fall in October. The November weakness came from decreases in demand for primary metals, industrial machinery and military aircraft.

A closely watched category that serves as a proxy for business investment spending dropped 0.5 percent in November, marking the longest stretch of weakness in this category since 2012.

Economists, however, remain optimistic that the drop in orders is a temporary soft patch and a stronger economy with increased consumer spending will trigger a

rebound in demand in 2015.

Demand for durable goods, items expected to last at least three years, fell 0.9 percent in November, the third drop in the past four months. Demand for nondurable goods such as petroleum, chemicals and paper declined 0.5 percent.

The overall weakness was led by a big drop of 11.1 percent in orders for military equipment, a volatile category that had shown a big 20.2 percent surge in October.

Demand for transportation equipment fell 1.3 percent in November, though orders for commercial aircraft and autos both rose. However, the overall transportation category was held back by a 7.4 percent fall in demand for military aircraft. Total factory orders fell to a seasonally adjusted \$492.7 billion in November. Orders for the first 11 months of 2014 were 3.4 percent higher than the same period in 2013. □

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California to begin work on first high speed bullet train

SCOTT SMITH

Associated Press

FRESNO, California (AP)

— California's high-speed rail project reaches a milestone Tuesday as officials mark the start of work on the first U.S. bullet train, which is designed to whisk travelers at 200 mph (320 kph) between Los Angeles and San Francisco in less than three hours.

The ceremony in Fresno comes amid challenges from Central Valley farmers and communities in the train's path who have sued to block it and from Republican members of Congress who vow to cut funding for the \$68 billion project. Opponents also say the state can't deliver the sleek project as it was first promised. Dan Richard, chairman of the California High-Speed Rail Authority, acknowledges the authority has been slow to buy up most of the land needed for laying track, but he is confident the system will be built, making California a model for high-speed rail across the country.

"The voters are going to get exactly what they

asked for," Richard said. "We have never ever stepped away from that vision, not one inch."

Californians in 2008 approved a nearly \$10 billion bond for the train, and in 2012 the Obama administration dedicated \$3.3 billion in stimulus funds. The state Legislature last year dedicated to the project a portion of the greenhouse gas fees collected under the state's cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gases.

Gov. Jerry Brown, a staunch advocate of the train, is expected to attend the groundbreaking along with hundreds of other dignitaries.

Bullet train systems in other countries generate revenue, and California officials are banking on this one to entice private investment as well as to generate revenue from advertising and development around the stations.

To make way for tracks, some demolition started last year in Fresno, but officials say work this year will be more intensive along the project's first segment

— a 28-mile (45-kilometer) stretch from Fresno north to Madera. A second phase of work will occur along

geles Basin by 2029. Rep. Jeff Denham, a Central Valley Republican and outspoken critic of high-

funding, he said, the project won't move beyond an initial stretch in the Central Valley. "It's hard to cel-



Gov. Jerry Brown speaks to the crowd during the California High Speed Rail Authority groundbreaking event Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015 in Fresno, Calif. The \$68 billion project faces challenges from Republicans in Congress eager to reduce government spending and Central Valley farmers suing to block the train from crossing their fields. The train would whisk travelers at 200 mph between Los Angeles and San Francisco in less than three hours.

(AP Photo/Gary Kazanjian)

the 114 miles (183 kilometers) from Fresno south to Bakersfield. Plans call for completing first 520 miles (837 kilometers) linking San Francisco and the Los An-

speed rail, vows to block any federal money for the trains because he doesn't believe they'll be as fast or carry as many riders as initially promised. Without

celebrate breaking ground on what is likely to become abandoned pieces of track that never connect to a useable segment," Denham said. □

American home prices coast up in November

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S.

home values rose at a measured pace in November, a sign that demand remains weak as many buyers have been priced out of the market.

Prices increased 5.5 percent in November compared with 12 months earlier, real estate provider CoreLogic said Tuesday. That was up slightly from October's year-over-year increase of 5.4 percent, which was revised downward from a previously reported 6.1 percent.

The housing market faces an affordability crunch. Many potential buyers were sidelined by double-digit home price gains in 2013, which eclipsed average wage growth of roughly 2 percent. That affordability gap caused sales to slide in 2014, restraining price growth in re-

cent months.

CoreLogic projects that price growth will remain mild as the U.S. real estate market continues to recover from the lows reached after the Great Recession. Nationwide, home prices remain 12.9 percent below their April 2006 peak.

Over the next 12 months, CoreLogic expects that home values will rise 4.6 percent. The firm estimates that roughly half the country's homes will match or surpass their pre-recession prices by the middle of 2015.

But "pockets of weakness" are surfacing in some parts of the country, noted Sam Khater, deputy chief economist at CoreLogic.

In three of the states with the highest annualized gains in November — Texas (8.5 percent), Colorado (8.8 percent) and North Dakota (7.9 percent) — home values have "been

benefiting from the energy boom," Khater said. But as oil prices have more than halved from \$107 a barrel in June, home values in these states may see downward pressure, he said.

Prices nudged up just 2.5 percent over the past 12 months in the Washington, DC metro area. That slowed growth in surrounding states, with Maryland chalking up a nearly flat 0.1 percent gain and Virginia prices increasingly only 1.8 percent.

Still, home values increased a solid 9 percent in Michigan and 7.6 percent in California. And falling oil prices correspond with cheaper gasoline, which could free up income for Americans to spend on homes. Economists also expect that solid hiring over the past year should produce stronger wage growth in 2015, which would also help with affordability. □

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Despite pressure, EU's sanctions against Russia could last



Russian President Vladimir Putin is seen in Moscow, Russia, with the Kremlin in the background. EU sanctions against Russia over the crisis in Ukraine are cutting both ways and pinching some big European companies. (AP Photo/Alexei Druzhinin)

JAMEY KEATEN
SYLVIE CORBET
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — EU sanctions against Russia over the crisis in Ukraine are cutting both ways: hurting Russia as well as pinching some big European companies. But economic relief isn't likely any time soon, diplomats and analysts say, since EU divisions make the sanctions tough to overturn. France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine are trying to set up talks next week in Astana, Kazakhstan, to ease the tensions behind the punitive measures that, along with slumping oil prices and U.S. sanctions, have sent the ruble sinking. The sanctions, and Russian retaliation, have in turn squeezed corporate Europe — including banks, oil companies, machinery makers and food giants that do business with Russia. European Union rules complicate any attempt to modify the sanctions put into place last year amid the separatist violence in eastern Ukraine and after Russia's annexation of Crimea. A unanimous decision by all 28 EU nations is needed to change the sanctions, and analysts say such unanimity doesn't exist. The main EU sanctions —

which have hit Russian banks and oil companies and have banned arms exports and the export of dual-use goods — are in place until the end of July. A first review of some sanctions could come in March. "We don't turn any sanction screw just for the sake of turning," German Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman, Steffen Seibert, told reporters Monday. "The sanctions are responses to concrete situations from the Russian side and concrete situations in eastern Ukraine." Under the combined blow of sanctions and slumping oil prices, the ruble has lost about half its value this year and the Russian economy has drifted into recession. President Vladimir Putin has promised the economy will rebound, but he has failed to offer a specific plan for easing Russia's heavy dependence on oil and gas revenues. Zolt Darvas, a senior fellow at the Bruegel think tank in Brussels, said France and Italy are among the nations more open to lifting the sanctions while Poland, Britain and the Baltic countries want to stand firm. It's not certain the talks scheduled for Jan. 15 in Astana will take place — diplo-

mat says high-level preparatory talks are planned Friday. French President Francois Hollande told France-Inter radio that he would only attend the Astana talks if progress could be made in easing the tensions. "The sanctions should be lifted if there's progress. If there's no progress, the sanctions will remain," he said Monday, adding that Putin "of course is not letting on that he has the slightest difficulty." "The sanctions ... and the decrease of the oil price ... weaken him. He doesn't say it of course, he doesn't let people think that he has any

kind of difficulty, but he has some difficulties." So do some European corporate titans. Hollande was to meet Wednesday with Patrick Pouyane, the new chief executive of the French oil giant Total, in part to discuss the EU sanctions. Pouyane has echoed his predecessor — who died in a plane crash in Russia in October — in calling the sanctions "unjust and unproductive." The Western sanctions have hurt European companies that do business in or with Russia. For example, some Russian clients can no longer pay them because they are

going into debt or payments are blocked in sanctions-hit banks. In addition, demand has dried up because Russians are struggling financially. Paul Ivan, a policy analyst at the European Policy Center in Brussels, said Russian retaliation has added to Europe's economic pain. Moscow has imposed a one-year ban on imports on a range of food produced by EU countries, hitting Lithuanian dairy farmers, Italian cheese makers and Belgian apple growers alike. The European statistics agency Eurostat said Russia absorbs 10 percent of all EU agricultural and food exports. □



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Female suicide bomber attacks Istanbul police station

CEYLAN YEGINSU

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ISTANBUL - A female suicide bomber wearing a large coat that concealed her explosives attacked a police station in the heart of Istanbul's most tourist-filled district Tuesday, killing herself and wounding two police officers, one fatally.

It was the second attack on the police in this city in less than a week and was reminiscent of a suicide bomb assault on the U.S. Embassy in Ankara nearly two years ago.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu told reporters in Ankara that he had "given instructions for the most

comprehensive investigations" into the assault. Turkish media said two police officers were wounded and one of them died.

The identity and nationality of the bomber were not immediately clear, but the Istanbul governor, Vasip Sahin, told reporters at the scene that she had spoken

English. She told police officers she had lost a wallet, the governor said.

The attack took place on a snowy day in the historic city's Sultanahmet district, home to some of the most storied and heavily trafficked visitor sites in Istanbul, including the famed Blue Mosque and the Ha-

gia Sophia Museum, once the leading temple of Eastern Orthodox Christians.

A street merchant, who was in the area at the time of the explosion, said the woman had walked past a souvenir shop and asked for directions to the tourism police station minutes before blowing herself up. □

Clashes with IS in Iraq kill 23 troops, allied fighters

SINAN SALAHEDDIN

SAMEER N. YACOB

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — A suicide blast targeting Iraqi security forces and subsequent clashes with Islamic State extremists on Tuesday killed at least 23 troops and pro-government Sunni fighters in the country's embattled western province of Anbar, officials said.

The day's heavy toll for the Iraqi forces came as they struggle in battles against the Islamic State group and try to claw back territory lost to the extremists during the militants' blitz last year. Iraq's prime minister vowed on Tuesday to dislodge IS militants from all areas under their control. Police officials said a suicide bomber first struck a gathering of pro-government Sunni fighters near the town of al-Baghdadi, about 180 kilometers (110 miles) northwest of Baghdad, in the morning hours. Soon after, IS militants attacked nearby army and police positions, setting off hours-long clashes. Police and hospital officials said 23 were killed and 28 were wounded in all on the government side. They did not give the death toll on the

militants' side, saying only that the attackers "sustained some casualties" and declining to provide further details. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were

"We will emerge as victorious and the day our lands are liberated is nearing," al-Abadi told a group of newly-graduated army officers, speaking at the Military Academy as Iraq

and transport planes flying overhead.

Meanwhile, the Islamic State group announced killing eight men in Salahuddin province north of Baghdad for allegedly

their hands tied behind their backs. Five were identified as police officers and two as informants, but no information was provided on the eighth victim. The photos show the men by a riverbank next to masked gunmen, under what looks like a bridge. They are on their knees as the gunmen appear to be readying to shoot them. Other photos show bloodied bodies of seven of the men, lying on the ground.

The Islamic State group provided no details on the purported killings. The authenticity of the photos could not be independently verified but they were posted late Monday on a Twitter account frequently used by the militant group.

However, a provincial official, who spoke on condition of anonymity fearing for his safety, offered a different account on the photos, saying Tuesday that the men depicted in the images were army officers who had abandoned the military before the militants' takeover of their area last year. The official said the men did not cooperate with Iraqi government forces. □



Iraqi security forces deploy in a military operation to regain control of villages around the town of Beiji, north of Baghdad. A suicide blast targeting Iraqi security forces and subsequent clashes with Islamic State extremists on Tuesday killed at least 23 troops and pro-government Sunni fighters in the country's embattled western province of Anbar, officials said.

(AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

not authorized to speak to the media.

In Baghdad, Prime Minister, Haider al-Abadi pledged that Iraq's forces would retake all areas that fell to IS during last summer's stunning blitz.

marked Army Day. "Our goal ... is that peace and prosperity prevail in Iraq and end this dark period in Iraqi history."

A parade was also staged to mark the day, complete with jet fighters, helicopters

cooperating with government forces and airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition targeting the militant group.

The group posted photographs showing eight blindfolded and bearded men in orange jumpsuits,

Shanghai mourns victims of New Year's Eve stampede

DAVID BARBOZA

© 2015 New York Times

SHANGHAI - Nearly a week after a stampede killed at least 36 people and injured 49 others during an outdoor New Year's Eve gathering in one of this city's most popular tourist spots, a solemn memorial service was held here Tuesday.

Friends and relatives of the

victims were among those who came to bow, mourn and place flowers in Chen Yi Square, where scores of people were injured or crushed to death about 11:35 p.m. after a huge crowd massed there panicked and pushed, creating a wave of pressure.

The victims were mostly people in their 20s and 30s,

a majority of them women who had come to Shanghai to work or study. The youngest victim was 12. The deaths were all the more tragic because China's longstanding one-child policy means that many of the parents of the victims are now childless.

Although it is unclear what caused the panic and stampede, the city authori-

ties have been criticized for failing to manage or control the crowds at the historical riverfront Bund area. In the days after the accident, the police acknowledged that not enough officers were on patrol in the area, despite warnings in previous years about the size and unruliness of the crowds that showed up for New Year's

Eve countdowns and entertainment.

The authorities now say that most outdoor shows had been canceled in the days leading up to New Year's Eve but that tens of thousands of people still jammed the riverfront promenade expecting to celebrate with light shows and a midnight countdown. □





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Turkey holds Dutch journalist on alleged terror propaganda

SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish police briefly detained a Dutch journalist for questioning Tuesday on suspicion that she engaged in propaganda on social media on behalf of autonomy-seeking Kurdish rebels, an official said.

Freelance journalist Frederike Geerdink was detained in the mainly Kurdish city of Diyarbakir where she is based, and questioned for several hours before being released, said Tahir Elci, who heads the lawyers association in the city. She was questioned for a series of postings on Twitter, Elci said.

Geerdink tweeted earlier that her house was searched by eight terrorism police and that she was being taken to a police station on charges of "propaganda for a terrorist organization."

Geerdink, who reports mainly on Kurdish issues for Dutch and Turkish media, is the latest journalist to be detained in Turkey amid growing concerns about media freedoms in Turkey. Last week, a former television presenter was briefly detained for posting a tweet that suggested a cover-up of a government corruption scandal while police raided media outlets close to a U.S.-based Muslim cleric and detained journalists and TV producers, raising fears of a government crackdown on opposition. Although the government has embarked on a peace process with the rebels belonging to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, to try and end their 30-year conflict, the group is still considered a terrorist organization by Turkey and its Western allies. □

Wintry weather strikes Middle East, bringing cold

The Associated Press

A powerful winter storm began striking across the Middle East on Tuesday, bringing a bitter cold to Syrian refugees huddled in Lebanon and blanketing Cairo in a sandstorm.

In Lebanon, officials said they expected a snowstorm Tuesday night in the Bekaa Valley, where hundreds of thousands of refugees from Syria's civil war live, many in tents.

Outside some makeshift tents near the Lebanese town of Anjar, some refugees collected wood or cleaned their wood-burning stoves in anticipation of the storm, while others placed sandbags at the base of their tents to help anchor the shelters and protect against flooding.

The United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, said it would "keep vulnerable refugees as warm as we can" in Jordan, which also hosts many who fled the war in Syria.

A sandstorm engulfed Egypt's capital Cairo on Tuesday afternoon, blocking out the sun as rush-hour traffic began. Jerusalem Mayor

Nir Barkat said major roads leading in and out of the city would be closed to prevent a repeat of the chaos that occurred during a 2013 snowstorm, when hundreds

stocking up on food. Strong waves from the Mediterranean Sea lashed Lebanon, Syria and Israel. Syria's state news agency SANA reported that the country's two

meters (15 feet) high. In the Lebanese capital Beirut residents walked along the seaside promenade to snap photographs of waves slamming into the seawall



Palestinians sit in a room of their war-damaged house in the Shijaiyah neighborhood of Gaza City, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015. A powerful winter storm began striking across the Middle East on Tuesday, bringing a bitter cold to Syrian refugees huddled in Lebanon and blanketing Cairo in a sandstorm.
(AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

of cars were stranded on highways near Jerusalem's entrance. As temperatures began to fall, anxious Israelis flooded supermarkets,

main ports in Tartous and Latakia had been closed as winds of up to 74 kilometers per hour (45 miles per hour) caused waves more than 5

and sending frothy water flowing across the pavement. Wind and rain caused delays at the city's airport Tuesday night. □

McDonald's runs out of French fries in Venezuela

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Forget the French fries. How about a side of yuca with that Big Mac? Venezuela's more than 100 McDonald's franchises have run out of potatoes and are now serving alternatives like deep-fried arepa flatbreads or yuca, a starchy staple of traditional South American cooking.

McDonald's is blaming a contract dispute with West Coast dock workers for halting the export of frozen fries to the country. The dispute also caused several days of French fry rationing

in Japan last month. But Sonia Ruseler, an Argentina-based spokeswoman for Arcos Dorados, which runs McDonald's restaurants in Latin America, declined to say Tuesday why Venezuela's neighbors are not suffering from similar scarcity.

Accustomed to shortages of their favorite foods, and equally in the habit of grumbling about the government as they walk away empty-handed, many Venezuelans assume the embattled socialist administration is to blame.

"It's because of the situation here; it's a total debacle," said Maria Guer-

reiro, who huffed out of a Caracas McDonald's with her family when she found out they were serving only fries made of yuca, which is also known as cassava. Her daughter won't eat the super-starchy root, she said, and they'd come for the sole purpose of treating the two-year-old to a Happy Meal.

Ruseler said the corporation is working to resolve the shortages, and in the meantime, "will continue to give our clients the McDonald's experience, offering 100 percent Venezuelan options."

Rival Burger King, mean-

while, used sly social media posts Tuesday to remind Venezuelans that some fast food chains are still offering American-style fries.

John Toaspern, chief marketing officer with the US Potato Board, noted that Venezuela's import of frozen potatoes fell off a cliff long before the labor dispute escalated. During the first 10 months of 2014, the country imported just 14 percent of the frozen fries from major McDonald's supplier Washington State that it brought in for the same period the year before, according to federal data compiled by the board. □

For many Russians; Mortgage costs soaring due to ruble slide

IRINA TITOVA

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)

— When they took out a mortgage on a small two-room apartment seven years ago, Oksana Li and her husband hoped to make a new home for themselves and their young son. Now, like thousands of other Russians, they are seeing that dream unravel as they are unable to make payments — even by working longer hours and a second job.

That's because they are part of a minority of Russians who took out mortgages denominated in a foreign currency to take advantage of lower interest rates abroad. As Russia's currency collapsed in recent months, the cost of repaying those mortgages has gone through the roof.

"In November, we gathered my entire monthly salary and that of my husband and took it to the bank, but the sum was still not enough to cover the new monthly payment," said Li, a 35-year-old office manager whose mortgage is in Swiss francs.

When the Li family took out their mortgage in 2008, their monthly payment was equivalent to 38,000 rubles. By the end of 2014, it was 129,000 rubles.

Taking mortgages in a foreign currency was an accepted practice in countries like Russia before 2008. The borrower gained by enjoying the interest rates of the country whose currency the loan was denominated in. Switzerland's main interest rate, for example, is now near zero, while Russia's is at 17 percent.

But the benefits of the cheaper rates come at the risk of fluctuations in the currency. In the case of Li, her monthly payments have more than doubled as the ruble fell by half since last year.

The percentage of Russian mortgages that are currently denominated in dollars, euros or other foreign currencies is only about 3.5 percent, according to banking analysts. But that is still tens of thousands of mortgages. The All-Russia Mortgage Bor-

rowers Community, which was founded on a social networking site in late November, claims that at least 250,000 people live in homes covered by foreign-currency mortgages. Selling the property is not a solution. Since the homes are based in Russia, they would be sold in rubles,

their son, now 12.

Li was among about a dozen people who held a picket on a recent Sunday in St. Petersburg. To avoid possible police detention, they stood one at a time in the cold.

On the same day in Moscow, where the protest was sanctioned, as many

to interfere, issued a statement in December saying it would be in the interests of both the banks and their customers to restructure the mortgages and convert them into rubles at a "reasonable rate."

The protests appear to have gotten the government's attention. Russia's parlia-



Oksana Li, right, stands with her son Gleb, 12, holding a poster reading "We are not asking for money from the state and banks, we demand not to take ours!" in St. Petersburg, Russia. Oksana went on a one-person picket to protest the onerous foreign currency mortgage that threatens to ultimately deprive thousands of the country's mortgage borrowers of their apartments amid Russia's economic crisis.

(AP Photo/Dmitry Lovetsky)

whereas the debt remains in a foreign currency. That leaves the mortgage holders in so-called negative equity.

"Many people find themselves in a situation where the price of the apartment does not cover all of the debt," said Yuri Yufyakov, a real estate agent in Moscow.

Li said that if they do not cover their mortgage payments for three months, the bank can take their apartment back.

She said that's all the more difficult to stomach because of the sacrifices she and her husband had made to hold onto the apartment.

"We pinched and saved, forgoing vacations, sick leaves and any nights out," she said. "I personally worked 12 hours a day and my husband had two jobs." She lamented that they had not spent enough time with

as 2,000 people joined the rally.

Sergei Ignatyev, coordinator of the group of mortgage holders in St. Petersburg, said they are demanding that banks convert the mortgages to rubles at the rate as of Jan. 1, 2014, when the Russian currency was trading at about 32 to the dollar. The ruble on Tuesday was trading at 63 to the dollar after hitting 80 in mid-December. Russia's energy-dependent economy has suffered a severe shock over the past few months, largely because oil prices have tanked. Western sanctions over Moscow's course on Ukraine also have had a negative effect, particularly on the banks.

Ignatyev said the banks would be unable to solve the problem unless the Russian Central Bank gets involved. The Central Bank, while insisting it has no right

ment is expected to take up legislation to address the situation when the long New Year and Orthodox Christmas holidays end on Monday.

Some mortgage holders decided not to wait and have managed to convert their debts from foreign currency into rubles, albeit at unfavorable rates.

St. Petersburg couple Dmitry Derveniyov, 50, and his wife Svetlana Suvorova, 32, reached an agreement with their bank in December to convert their 15-year, dollar-denominated mortgage into rubles at a rate that still doubles their payment compared with the start of 2014. On the plus side, they are protected from any further increases and can plan ahead.

"At least now we have hope that we will not lose the apartment," Suvorova said. □

Davos forum of power brokers will draw 2,500

JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Most European countries are sending their heads of state or government to this month's gathering of world leaders and power brokers in the Swiss ski resort of Davos, while high-level delegations are expected from China, the United States, Japan and Russia.

Organizers of the World Economic Forum said Tuesday that the largest-ever number of participants — more than 2,500 — will attend the January 21-24 forum, including 300 heads of state, heads of government and government members, along with 1,500 business leaders from more than 140 countries.

The forum said there will be "significant participation from all crisis-hit areas in the world" and that it will offer some official and unofficial dialogues to stimulate peace-making efforts. There also will be a special gathering of trade ministers. It said a number of African heads of state, most of the leaders from ASEAN countries and high-level delegations from key Latin American countries also will attend, as will 14 Nobel laureates and the heads of all the world's major international organizations.

Among the expected participants are Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel, Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi, Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani, Turkey's Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

This year is meant to help leaders navigate a world in which they are "facing challenges that are unprecedented in their complexity, velocity and interconnectedness," said the forum's founder, Klaus Schwab.

There will be special emphasis, at U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's request, on some of the world body's major priorities, such as its post-2015 anti-poverty agenda and on building consensus toward an international climate deal in Paris later this year. □



Distinguished Peruvian Press Visiting One Happy Island



PALM BEACH - Rex Broekman, editor The Huaraz Telegraph and news anchor at El Informativo, from Peru, is currently visiting Aruba and impressed with the excellent tourism infrastructure and exciting attractions decided to film a number of TV segments for his local news channel, Cable Andino Channel 3, in Huaraz, his home town, population 120,000 just like Aruba, covering the history of the island, Sports, Gastronomy, Culture and Peruvian living in Aruba. He recruited the help of his brother fitness instructor Roy Broekman who in turn recruited local film maker

and movie editor Aaron Croes, Xtreme Productions Aruba, and together they lined up a great number of interesting people and gorgeous places to contribute to the raw footage which will be edited by the crew of Cable Andino in Huaraz, with five different introductions from iconic Aruba locations. Special thanks to Peruvian living on the island, Edwin, Adolfo, Roxanne, member of Parliament Marisol Lopez Tromp and the El Chalan Restaurant owners, for their cooperation with the projects. The Huaraz Telegraph, where the materials will



also be printed is a monthly English language newspaper, serving the tourist and the local population of Huaraz, you may visit www.thehuaraztelegraph.com, for more information. Huaraz is the capital of the State of Ancash, located in the central part of the Callejon de Huaylas

Valley, at the elevation of 3,050m. The city lives off Peruvian Andes tourism, especially winter sport and adventure with many visitors from around the world practicing climbing, hiking, and snowboarding. "Our visitors, looking at the Aruba footage might

want to play beach tennis, windsurf and kite surf," banters Rex, who enjoys Aruba's weather and hospitality, while working on his documentary. Pictured here the crew at el Chalan, with Marisol Lopez Tromp and at the TV station in Peru with Dennis Caballero. □

Some of our Trip Advisor reviews in a nutshell

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De Palm Tours receives Top Honors From Princess Cruises



ORANJESTAD – De Palm Tours is again honored with an award for the Princess Cruises high-volume tour as well as an award for the Best Tour Guide for the 2013-2014 season. Of all the destinations that Princess Cruises goes to, De Palm Tours 4WD Baby Natural Bridge & Arashi Beach Island Tour won its high-volume tour award and Brian Morris from Atlantis Submarine was voted the Best Tour Guide. The Countryside Horseback Ride from Rancho La Ponderosa, also sold by De Palm Tours, won the low-volume tour award for the season. Every season, Princess Cruises holds an award ceremony for the tours and

activities offered at each port that are liked most by their passengers. A ceremony was held aboard the Coral Princess where the De Palm Tours Corporation was honored for the awards. Passengers of Princess Cruises voted De Palm Tours' highly acclaimed 4WD adventure and off-road jeep excursion as number one. This isn't a new celebratory moment for the company, as two times before Atlantis Submarines has been honored for the high-volume award and also their Natural Pool Jeep Adventure, not to mention the dozens of other nominations De Palm Tours has taken the cake for from other Princess

Cruises tour categories. □ Brian Morris from Atlantis Submarine and who was awarded as best tour guide by Princess Cruises' guests, claims that the submarine experience is a unique opportunity to explore Aruba's waters away from the shores. One of the only commercial submarines in the Caribbean, the Atlantis VI takes passengers 135 feet below the sea surface through the Barcadera Reef, witnessing an array of

colorful and abundant sea life while learning about the surrounding waters and its inhabitants. De Palm Tours' off-road Land Rover guides combine their passion for the island and knowledge about its history to make the tours an unforgettable memory for guests as they rip through the backside of Aruba and towards beautiful Arashi Beach.

The Princess Cruises line allows for its passengers to "escape completely" with

eight consecutive years voted as "Best Cruise Itineraries" by Recommend Magazine. As one of the destinations on the Southern Caribbean Cruises line, Aruba is advertised as the ideal place for snorkeling where almost every inch of coastline shows off the island's supreme waters, which guests indulge in on both the submarine tour and jeep adventure. Warren Stanley, General Manager of De Palm Tours, would like to thank Princess Cruises for their continued support, but most of all the employees for taking pride in their jobs and wholeheartedly making these tours memorable experiences. □

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Juanita Dorothal Celebrates a Major Career Milestone



NOORD - Juanita's career in the resort industry unfolded in the housekeeping department where she started as a Room Attendant, and following a number of promotions obtained her present senior position. Hailing from Pinel, in the Dominican Republic, Juanita came to Aruba 26 years ago, and worked for a while as a restaurant bus

girl and dishwasher, until she managed to get on her feet and establish herself here, get married and enter into service within Aruba's dynamic resort industry. Though her husband passed away, Juanita reports coming to work with the same joy and the same enthusiasm as the day she started. Her colleagues

and peers regard her as a motivated self-starter, and she enjoys seeing the owners come back to the island year after year with their extended family members. In her spare time Juanita volunteers visiting at the elderly home and going to the hospital to read to bed-ridden patients. As an employee within Aru-

ba's resort industry, Juanita has received numerous awards for going above and beyond her normal duties, she was also nominated several times for Employee of the Month and was elected Employee of the Quarter on several occasions.

Described as a conscientious, loyal, dedicated and hard working individual, Juanita always puts her job first, before personal considerations.

On the occasion of her anniversary, Board and Management at the resort where she has been employed for 25 years congratulated Juanita on a job well done and wished her many more years of service, thanking her for her many contributions to the company.

In the picture Astrid Muller Cristina Galindo and Mary Werleman join Juanita for lunch to celebrate her career accomplishments. □





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PALM BEACH - Nicholas and Victoria De Maio of Massapequa, New York were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors to Aruba recently for visiting our island for an amazing 30 consecutive years!

The symbolic honorary title of Goodwill Ambassador is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more years consecutive.



Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the La Quinta Resort. Victoria commented that she will never change her vacation island for any

other island, saying their top reasons for returning are they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island", the great weather and friendly Aruban hospitality, the white sand beaches and the local food.

On the pictures Ms. Darline S. de Cuba from ATA is seen together with Nicholas and Victoria, along with Mrs. Ika Arends, General Manager of La Quinta Beach Resort. □



Qatar Open



Michael Berrer of Germany returns the ball to Spain's Rafael Nadal during the Qatar ATP Open Tennis tournament in Doha, Qatar, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015. Associated Press

Nadal upset by German qualifier in first round

SANDRA HARWITT
Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Defending champion Rafael Nadal was ushered to the exit, while top-seeded Novak Djokovic cruised through his first match of the season at the Qatar Open on Tuesday.

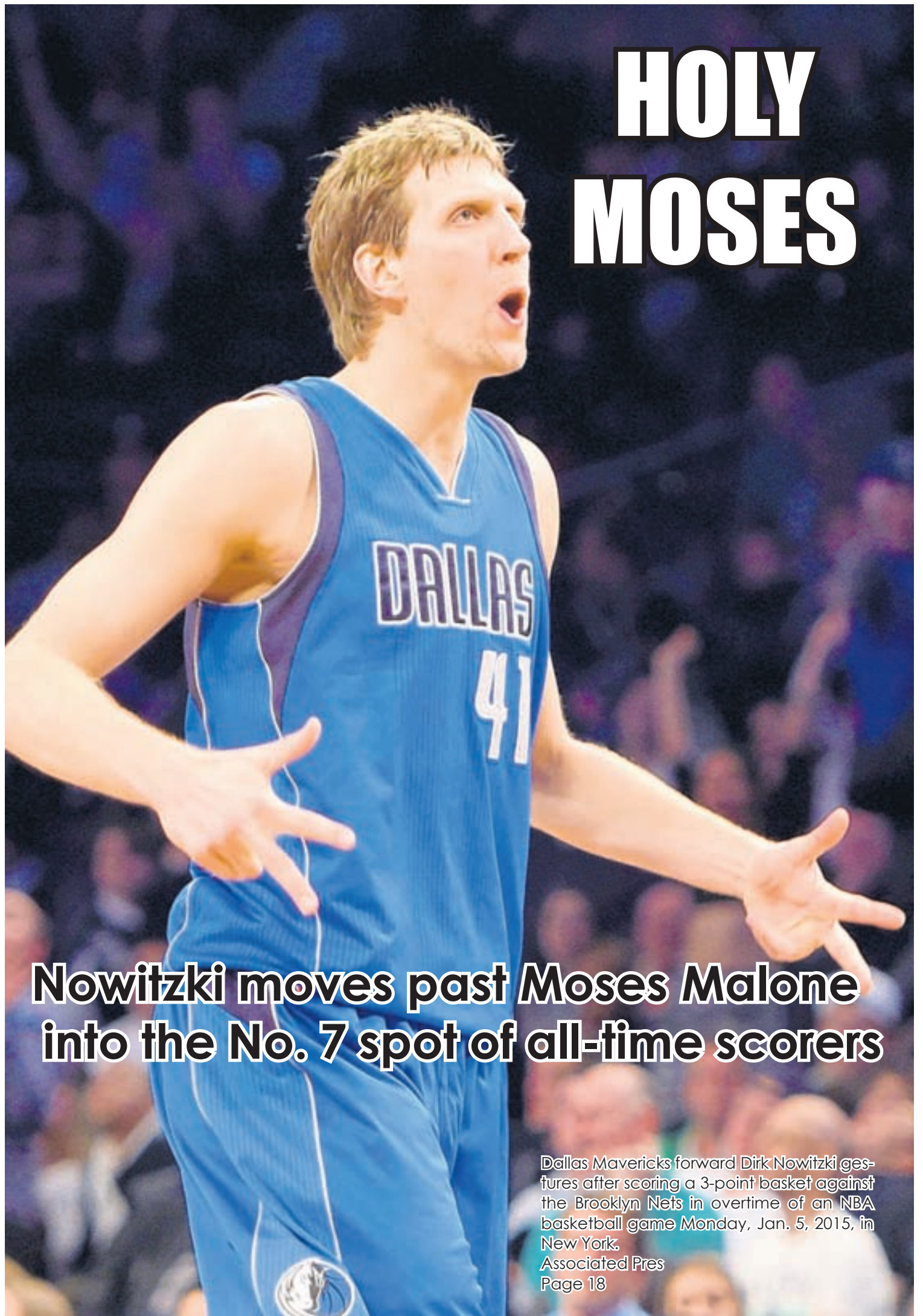
The second-seeded Nadal, showing desire but displaying a rusty game, was upset by German qualifier Michael Berrer 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the first round.

This was Nadal's first match since losing in the Basel quarterfinals to 17-year-old Borna Coric of Croatia in October. The Spaniard spent much of the autumn suffering from appendicitis and underwent an appendectomy on Nov. 3.

"These things happen after long time without being on the road, being on rhythm, being in competition," Nadal said. "I was playing with more nerves because after long time (away) I wanted to win."

Continued on page 20

HOLY MOSES



Nowitzki moves past Moses Malone into the No. 7 spot of all-time scorers

Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki gestures after scoring a 3-point basket against the Brooklyn Nets in overtime of an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 5, 2015, in New York. Associated Press
Page 18

Dirk moves up NBA scoring list, Mavs beat Nets

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki made a clinching 3-pointer in overtime that moved him into seventh place on the NBA's career scoring list, and the Dallas Mavericks beat the Brooklyn Nets 96-88 on Monday night to match their season high with a sixth straight victory.

Monta Ellis scored 19 points and made a pair of jumpers early in overtime before consecutive 3-pointers by Chandler Parsons and Nowitzki made it 96-88 with 34 seconds to play. That gave Nowitzki 15 points for the game and 27,412 in his career, moving him past Moses Malone into the No. 7 spot.

Rajon Rondo shot 1 of 13 for two points but had 14 assists and 10 rebounds for the Mavericks, who have the longest current winning streak in the NBA. Tyson Chandler finished with 14 points and 13 boards. Brook Lopez had 22 points and 13 rebounds for the Nets but faded after an 18-point first quarter. Jarrett Jack had 20 points and 10 assists.

The Nets were without Deron Williams (sore left side) and Kevin Garnett, who rested on the second night of back-to-back games, and dropped their second straight after winning three in a row.

WARRIORS 117, THUNDER 91

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Harrison Barnes scored a season-high 23 points and grabbed seven rebounds,



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, left, and Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant chase a loose ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 5, 2015, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

and Golden State used a smothering defensive effort to rout Oklahoma City.

Klay Thompson and Stephen Curry scored 19 points each as the NBA-best Warriors (27-5) bottled up Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook and the Thunder. Golden State held Oklahoma City to 30.6 percent shooting.

The Warriors' whipping denied the rejuvenated Thunder (17-18) a chance to move above .500 for the first time this season.

Westbrook scored 22 points, and Durant had 14 points and 10 rebounds on a night when everything seemed to be a struggle for the Thunder. Durant shot 3 of 16, and Westbrook finished 5 for 21 from the floor. But help is on the way for

Oklahoma City's All-Star tandem.

The Thunder acquired shooting guard Dion Waiters from Cleveland in a three-team trade that was announced during the game. Oklahoma City sent the Cavaliers a protected 2015 first-round draft pick and moved reserve Lance Thomas to the New York Knicks.

BULLS 114, ROCKETS 105
CHICAGO (AP) — Pau Gasol had 27 points and 14 rebounds, Jimmy Butler scored 22 and Chicago rallied for its 13th win in 15 games.

Derrick Rose added 19 points, Nikola Mirotic had 17 and the Bulls outscored the Rockets 19-5 over the final 3:19.

Josh Smith led Houston with 21 points. James Harden scored 20, but the Rockets lost for the fourth time in six games.

Butler scored five points and took a charge against Harden during the game-ending rally to help the Bulls wipe out a five-point deficit.

Mirotic also hit a 3 and scored five points during that stretch.

76ERS 95, CAVALIERS 92
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Tony Wroten scored 20 points and hit the go-ahead layup with 9.1 seconds left to lift Philadelphia over short-handed Cleveland.

Philadelphia had been 0-14 at home this season. Kevin Love had 28 points and 19 rebounds for the

Cavaliers, who didn't have LeBron James and Kyrie Irving because of injuries. They lost Dion Waiters and two reserves shortly before tipoff because of a three-team trade with New York and Oklahoma City.

After the Cavaliers blew all of a 17-point lead, Love made it 92-90 with a pair of free throws with 1:09 left.

Wroten made one of two free throws, then scored the go-ahead layup to help the Sixers end their home-losing streak.

Michael Carter-Williams had 18 points and 13 assists for the Sixers.

HAWKS 107, CLIPPERS 98

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Paul Millsap scored 23 points, Jeff Teague added 20 and Atlanta pulled away from Los Angeles in the fourth quarter to earn its seventh straight road victory for the first time in 21 years.

DeMarre Carroll had 17 points and eight rebounds, and Al Horford scored 16 for the East-leading Hawks, who won their fifth in a row and 19th in 21 games.

Blake Griffin had 26 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Clippers, whose biggest lead of nine came at the start of the game. DeAndre Jordan added 15 points and 16 rebounds, and Chris Paul had 10 points and 10 assists before fouling out with 1:50 to play as the team's three-game winning streak ended.

GRIZZLIES 105, KNICKS 83
MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Mike Conley scored 14 of his 22 points in the third quarter, and Memphis sent depleted New York to its record-tying 12th straight loss.

The Knicks (5-32), who have the NBA's worst winning percentage, lost for the 22nd time in 23 games. New York played without injured starters Carmelo Anthony and Amare Stoudemire. The Knicks were also missing J.R. Smith and Iman Shumpert, who were traded to Cleveland.

Reserve forward Quincy Acy led the Knicks with 19 points, and Jose Calderon added 13.

The Grizzlies led by 11 at the half and pulled away in the third quarter. □

Knicks sending JR Smith, Shumpert to Cavaliers

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Knicks are trading J.R. Smith and Iman Shumpert to the disappointing Cavaliers, who have struggled in superstar LeBron James' first season back in Cleveland.

The Knicks agreed to trade Smith and Shumpert, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated

Press on Monday night.

New York will get a second-round pick in 2019 from the Cavaliers, the person said on condition of anonymity because the trade was not yet official. New York, off to one of the worst starts in franchise history, plans to waive whatever players it acquires in the deal that also includes the Oklahoma City Thunder, according to reports. □



In this Dec. 9, 2014, file photo, New York Knicks guard Iman Shumpert (21) drives against New Orleans during the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans.

Associated Press

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Johnson, Martinez, Smoltz, Biggio elected to Hall of Fame

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez and John Smoltz, a trio of star pitchers who dominated in an era of offense, were elected to baseball's Hall of Fame on Tuesday along with Craig Biggio, the first time since 1955 writers selected four players in one year.

The Big Unit, Martinez and Smoltz easily earned induction on their first tries, and Biggio made it on the third attempt after falling two votes shy last year. Steroids-tainted stars Roger Clemens, Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa remained far from election. Johnson, a five-time Cy Young Award winner with 303 victories and 4,875 strikeouts, was selected on 534 of 549 ballots by veteran members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

"The Hall of Fame was never something that I surely ever thought about," said Johnson, who has been pursuing a photography career since his retirement.

The 97.3 percentage for the left-hander was the eighth-highest in the history of voting.

"I don't think people quite understand how difficult it is to be 6-foot-10 and be throwing a ball 60 feet, 6 inches away," Johnson said. "In order to do that, you have to consistent with your release point and where you're landing and your arm slot and all that. For someone 6-1, 6-2, there's less body to keep under control, so it's a lot easier."

Martinez, a three-time Cy Young winner with flamboyance to go along with his fastball, appeared on 500 ballots (91.1 percent). Martinez was 219-100, struck out 3,154, led the major leagues in ERA five times and in 2004 helped the Boston Red Sox to their first World Series title in 86 years.

Smoltz was picked on 455 ballots (82.9 percent) and will join former Atlanta teammates Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine, who were inducted last summer along with Chicago White



Former Boston Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez, right, receives congratulations Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015, at Fenway Park, in Boston, after being elected to baseball's Hall of Fame.

Associated Press

Sox slugger Frank Thomas. Smoltz, the 1996 NL Cy Young winner, was 213-155 with 154 saves, the only pitcher with 200 wins and 150 saves. He went 15-4 in the postseason.

Biggio appeared on 454

ballots, 42 more than the 75 percent needed and up from 68.2 percent in his first appearance and 74.8 percent last year. He had 3,060 hits in 20 big league seasons, all with the Houston Astros.

The quartet will be inducted in Cooperstown on July 26. The BBWAA had not voted in four players in a single year since selecting Joe DiMaggio, Gabby Hartnett, Ted Lyons and Dazzy Vance 60 years earlier. □

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Continued from page 17

"When you are back from an injury, that takes time." Nadal was also sidelined for three months with a right wrist injury after Wimbledon. He briefly returned to the game at Beijing in late September where he reached the quarterfinals. The following week in Shanghai he lost in the opening round to compatriot Feliciano Lopez. Nadal had three break points on Berrer's serve in the final game, but couldn't convert on those opportunities to draw the third set score even to 5-5. Despite the disappointing loss, Nadal expects to get back on track once he starts playing more matches. "I'm going to work hard to try to make it less tough as possible," Nadal said. "My motivation and my hunger to keep doing things well is still the same. "So I am sure that I'm gonna come back to my best.



Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal returns the ball to Michael Berrer of Germany during the Qatar ATP Open Tennis tournament in Doha, Qatar, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015.

Associated Press

I hope to be soon."

The 127th-ranked Berrer broke Nadal to go ahead 3-1 in the second set, and then in the first game of the third set.

Berrer had never before beaten a top five ranked player. The 34-year-old fa-

ther of two has already announced he's retiring at the end of the year.

"It's really unbelievable," Berrer told the crowd after his win. "It's my last season so I'm just going for it. Why not?"

Nadal had won their pre-

vious two matches with ease, never dropping more than three games in either match. Top-ranked Djokovic started off his 2015 season with a 6-2, 6-1 win in a 59-minute match against fellow Serbian Dusan Lajovic. Djokovic put 72 percent

of his first serve in play and was successful on five of six break point opportunities. Djokovic withdrew from the Abu Dhabi exhibition final last week with the flu, but showed no lingering signs of illness against Lajovic. "I thought it was a very good performance under the circumstances that I was in for the last couple of days," Djokovic said. "I didn't know how I will feel." Djokovic is making his first career appearance at the Doha tournament. Historically, he doesn't play a sanctioned tournament the first week of the year. Third-seeded Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic also advanced to the second round with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan in 62 minutes. Fourth-seeded David Ferrer of Spain needed a lot more time in his match against qualifier Thiemo De Bakker of the Netherlands — eventually securing a 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-3 win that took two hours, 18 minutes to complete.

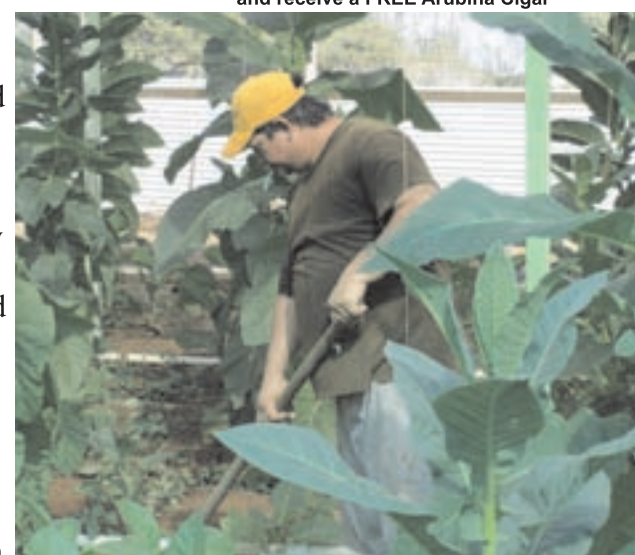
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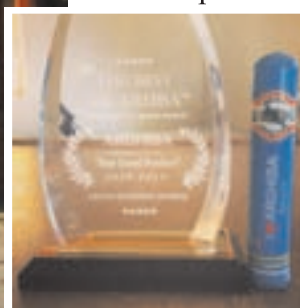


ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also



Owner Benjamin Petrocchi

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Why “all-star” officiating crews in playoffs?

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

A yellow flag is thrown. Dallas Cowboys fans groan. Detroit Lions fans rejoice. Then it is picked up by the game officials. No penalty is called.

That one call/non-call on Sunday became the focal point of the wild-card round in the NFL playoffs. With the Lions up 20-17 and in Dallas territory, referee Pete Morelli initially announced a defensive pass interference penalty on Cowboys linebacker Anthony Hitchens. Then

the officials reversed themselves, leaving Detroit facing fourth down.

The Lions punted, and Dallas drove for the winning touchdown.

Lions coach Jim Caldwell and quarterback Matthew Stafford were angry. Game broadcasters were puzzled. Fans were befuddled.

Unfortunately, NFL officiating crews have been in the spotlight too often this season. The latest incident brings up two significant questions:

—Was there a lack of communication with a public

that clamors for information — and deserves it?

—Why would the NFL use “all-star” crews in its most important games, virtually eliminating the cohesion that helps officials during the regular season?

Dean Blandino, the NFL’s officiating chief, has some answers. They’re not likely to placate many.

Blandino told The Associated Press on Monday that Morelli erred in originally announcing the interference call before discussing it with the back judge who made the call, and



Dallas Cowboys outside linebacker Anthony Hitchens (59) gets hit in the back by a pass intended for Detroit Lions tight end Brandon Pettigrew (87) during the fourth quarter of an NFL wild-card playoff football game, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

NHL Maple Leafs fire coach Randy Carlyle

TORONTO (AP) — Randy Carlyle was fired as coach of the Toronto Maple Leafs on Tuesday following a road trip in which the team lost five of seven games and showed little signs it would soon get better.

The dismissal comes 40 games into the season, with Toronto at 21-3-16 and in fourth place in the Atlantic Division. The Maple Leafs have shown flashes of promise but have struggled on defense.

“Our team was not trending in the right direction and we felt an immediate change was necessary,” general manager Dave Nonis said in a statement.

Assistants Steve Spott and Peter Horachek will run the bench for Wednesday’s game against the Washington Capitals.

Carlyle went 91-19-68 in 188



In this April 5, 2014, file photo, Toronto Maple Leafs head coach Randy Carlyle, top center, looks on in the final minutes of an NHL hockey game against the Winnipeg Jets in Toronto. The Maple Leafs fired Carlyle Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2014.

Associated Press

games as coach over parts of four seasons. He won the Stanley Cup as coach of the Anaheim Ducks in 2007. He is the fourth NHL coach

to be fired this season. The others were: Paul MacLean (Ottawa), Dallas Eakins (Edmonton) and Pete DeBoer (New Jersey).

with other members of the crew. The head linesman, who was closer to the play, then “gave more information, and that from his perspective it was not enough contact (for pass interference) and that there was not enough contact that restricted the receiver (Lions tight end Brandon Pettigrew).” The mechanics we would prefer are that the conversation occurs before the initial announcement,” Blandino said, “so there is one announcement and no confusion if a foul was committed or not.”

Morelli made a second announcement saying there would be no penalty. Blandino believes TV viewers missed that call because, at the time Morelli was speaking, announcers Joe Buck and Troy Aikman were talking to Fox officiating commentator and former NFL director of officials

Mike Pereira.

“I don’t think there was any idea what was happening on the field, and the second announcement just got lost,” Blandino said.

Morelli’s announcement could be heard on an audio review of Fox’s broadcast, but the announcers also were discussing the play.

So the viewing audience couldn’t be sure what happened, only that the flag had been picked up. Even more of an issue, though, is the process for selecting officials for postseason games.

As part of the labor agreement between the league and the officials’ union in 2012, the officials bargained for and received an individual-based assignment system. It will remain in effect until after next season, when Blandino believes it will be revisited.

Your Hidden Allergies are Making you Sick

By Dr Carlos Viana

Food allergy is one of the most common medical problems today and its growing! One study by the US National Institute of Health (NIH) on just four of the most common food allergens, peanuts, shrimp, milk and eggs found that 7.5 million or almost 3 in 100 people have a life threatening allergy to one or more of these foods. Millions more have less severe allergies or intolerances to these and many other foods and chemicals.

A serious allergic reaction can also develop because of a wasp or jellyfish sting, chemicals, over-the-counter or pharmaceutical drugs. This reaction is your immune system deciding that these foods, venom stings, chemicals or medicines are enemies of the body and need to be attacked. With this type of allergy, the immune system produces massive amounts of the chemical histamine that leads to anaphylaxis. This potentially fatal condition may cause red, itchy skin rashes, acute sinus attack, swollen eyes and stomach pain or can swell the throat and esophagus cutting off air from the lungs.

People with a life threatening allergy should speak to their doctor about carrying an, EpiPen, or auto-injector of epinephrine, available by prescription to stop the body's release of life threatening histamines and give the person time to get emergency care. A blood test called, IgE can check for this type of allergic response, but only when you have an attack.

On the other hand, an inability to tolerate foods and environmental factors, also known as a sensitivity or intolerance, causes the immune system to work less severely, but constantly. This constant or chronic inflammation has been linked to countless conditions, including: digestive disorders, migraines, obesity, chronic fatigue, ADD, depression, aching joints, skin disorders, arthritis and many more.

A major development in food sensitivities came through the work of Doctor Karl Landsteiner. In 1902 Dr. Landsteiner discovered the ABO blood group system. Landsteiner saw that the blood from one type thickened the blood of an individual with a different blood type. Thick blood causes circulation problems and increases the possibility of heart attacks and strokes. Not only did Landsteiner's work permit successful blood transfusions and save thousands of lives, it also

led to the discovery that specific foods will thicken the blood of specific blood types. Based on this initial work, blood type diets have been developed. For over ten years our clinic has witnessed positive changes in the health of our patients that follow blood type diets.

Beyond thickening of the blood, less acute and obvious reactions of the body to foods, food additives, chemicals, pharmaceutical drugs, molds, even herbal medicine are difficult to diagnose. In a food and chemical intolerance your immune system is working needlessly. Modern, synthetic foods, overuse of pharmaceuticals and chemicals, electrometric fields (EMF's), all contribute to an over stimulated immune system. This over stimulated immune system makes a "mistake" and fights otherwise harmless foods. That "mistake" continues unless you eliminate that food response and break the cycle. When your immune system is working continually, it produces inflammation which has been linked to countless chronic conditions, including: digestive disorders, migraines, obesity, chronic fatigue, ADD, aching joints, skin disorders, arthritis and many more.

Symptoms of food intolerance vary greatly, and can be mistaken for the symptoms of a food allergy. While true allergies are associated with fast-acting responses, it can be difficult to determine the offending food or chemical causing intolerance because these responses generally take place over a prolonged period of time. Thus, the offending food or chemical and the response are separated in time and may not be obviously related. Food intolerance symptoms usually begin about half an hour after eating or drinking the food in question, but sometimes symptoms may be delayed up to four days! The blood type food lists are good, but based on the generalized blood types. Since it would be difficult to eliminate and then reintroduce all the foods in a person's diet to check for sensitivity, a comprehensive blood test is available using blood from the individual person that checks a large panel of foods and chemicals for these slower reactions.

Although there are allergy skin tests, these tests only check one type of body reaction and there are several. Therefore an allergy skin test is not reliable. For 25 years, the ALCAT® worldwide, Food and Chemical Sensitivity/Intolerance Testing has provided patients and nutritional health-

care professionals with a tool to successfully overcome a wide variety of conditions, such as digestive disorders, migraines, obesity, chronic fatigue, skin disorders, arthritis, hyperactivity, sinus, asthma and body pain which result from food and chemical sensitivities.

At Viana Healing Center, we have seen amazing results with many of these disorders including better insulin management and individuals who had previously been unable to lose weight, finally loose and maintain a healthy weight with a nutritious varied diet. Using ALCAT® and other blood test results, Viana Healing Center prepares a personal diet for each patient. After a period of supervised eliminating and detoxing from "trigger" or offending foods, individuals are able to reintroduce many foods back into the diet while increasing energy and successfully maintaining weight.

Get the Point! What you eat, drink, put on your skin and clean your house with all affects your health. If you want to check if food and chemical intolerances are negatively affecting your good looks and health, check in with a Certified Clinical Nutritionist or holistic physician trained in nutrition. Put "better health at the top of your "to do" list. ALCAT Food and Chemical Sensitivity/Intolerance testing with a personal meal plan and counseling is available through Viana Healing Center.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site:

www.vianaheal.com

Dr. Viana's Award Winning BOOK: Prescriptions from Paradise, Introduction to Biocompatible Medicine – Available at local Bookstores, Hotel Gift shops and Boticas. Signed copies at Viana Healing Center, EBooks: Amazon kindle, Nook, iTunes check for Events at: facebook.com/vianahealingcenter.□

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TV makers design for streaming video to stay relevant

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Does anyone just watch TV anymore? The dramatic shift toward online and mobile viewing is driving television set makers to design as much for streaming video as for watching broadcast or cable channels. Traditional TV is far from dead, but these days viewers care less about watching shows live and even prefer saving certain series to watch all at once in an evening or weekend of binge-watching. Broadcast networks and hundreds of cable channels share viewer attention with thousands of online services, including amateurs creating their own series on YouTube. Already, Netflix has outbid traditional channels for hits such as "House of Cards." And Dish this week announced it will sell online access to a bundle of channels including live sports network ESPN for just \$20 a month. Online video will account for a third of all video viewing in 2020, up from about 10 percent in 2013, predicts The Diffusion Group, a research firm that specializes in Internet video.

So how to keep the television set, that focal point of the American living room for decades, relevant? Design for online video.

At the International CES gadget show this week in Las Vegas, TV makers unveiled new models with 4K resolution, or four times the clarity offered by today's high definition TVs. They are pushing the features even though not a single TV channel is yet available in 4K. But Internet services such as Netflix, Amazon and M-Go are starting to offer 4K video.

Sony on Monday promised to create more 4K content to watch on those sets. Four popular shows from its entertainment division - "The Goldbergs," "The Blacklist," "Masters of Sex" and "The Night Shift" - will soon be available in 4K and it's working with partners including Netflix and YouTube to deliver more



Vivek Khemka, senior vice president of product management at Dish, speaks during a news conference at the International CES, Monday, Jan. 5, 2015, in Las Vegas. Associated Press

4K streaming video. Sony also launched an alliance with other TV makers, content providers and distributors to create technical standards for high-quality 4K video.

"It's going to be the first format primarily driven by streaming," says Jim Funk, a senior vice president at Roku Inc., which makes streaming TV devices.

Beyond 4K, Sharp developed an engineering trick to make its high-end set look even sharper. Samsung added a nanocrystal semiconductor layer to make colors purer and the screen brighter. LG is pushing organic LED screens with richer colors and pure black - the kind typically limited to smaller displays such as phones because of price.

And Internet connectivity is becoming standard in sets, the way all TVs are color now. LG and Samsung also have ways to easily switch video between TV and mobile devices, so that if you're watching a movie on a phone, you can continue it on your TV as soon as you get home.

The Consumer Electronics Association expects TV sales to increase 2 percent to 251 million units this year. The average screen size is projected to be 40 inches, up from 31 inches in 2007. CEA predicts more than 23 million of the units will

be 4K TVs this year, about 2.5 times the shipments in 2014. That's even with the explosion of viewing on tablets and smartphones. People tend to use phones and tablets while traveling or for shorter video, says Tim Alessi, head of new product development for home entertainment at LG Electronics USA. For a full-length movie, viewers want to replicate the theater in the home. That's only done through a big TV set.

"When I want a full home-entertainment experience, especially with my family and friends, the TV is still the best way to do that," agrees Tim Baxter, president and chief operating officer of Samsung Electronics America.

So, how much will all this cost?

TVs with 4K capabilities have started to drop below \$1,000, but they are still a few hundred dollars more than regular sets. Consumers also will likely have to pay more for 4K content, the way service providers now charge a few dollars more for high-definition downloads. Netflix charges \$12 for a streaming plan that supports 4K versus \$9 for regular formats, for example.

With compression technology, consumers should be able to view 4K video with standard broadband

packages, though the experience will be better with higher, pricier tiers. Even more streaming is expected as content providers hop on the online train alongside the TV makers. Tensions likely will increase between content distributors and Internet access

providers over who's going to pay for network upgrades — and how those costs might get passed down to consumers.

More traditional channels are becoming available without the need for a cable or satellite subscription. Satellite TV provider Dish Network Corp. is the latest, offering its Sling TV package of channels, including ESPN and CNN, for delivery entirely over the Internet. The availability of ESPN addresses a major reason people have still kept TV service — live sports. Sony also has an Internet television service expected to debut by the end of March - PlayStation Vue - and HBO and Showtime plan to debut Internet-only subscription offerings this year. The packages are aimed at the millions of so-called cord-cutters or "cord-nevers" that find cable and satellite bundles too pricey and don't subscribe to either, turning instead to Hulu, Google's YouTube and Amazon. □

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late show:

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Bonds rally; stocks and oil extend slumps

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. economy ended last year on a tear, but financial markets are saying the outlook for this year is less bright. Stocks continued to retreat from their recent record highs on Tuesday, weighed down by an ongoing plunge in the price of oil. Bonds rallied as investors bought the safest assets, pushing the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note back below 2 percent for the first time in three months. The moves suggest that investors have little confidence the U.S. economy will continue to grow at the 5 percent annual pace reached in the third quarter of last year. As a consequence, company earnings will suffer. The reason for the gloomy prognosis is a slowdown in growth elsewhere in world, particularly Europe. The slump in the price of oil, which dropped well below \$50 a barrel Tuesday from \$107 in June, has also prompted a sharp shift in

potentially be a problem." The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 17.97 points, or 0.9 percent, to 2,002.61. The index fell as much as 28 points earlier. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 130.01 points, or 0.7 percent, at 17,371.64. The Nasdaq composite dropped 59.84 points, or 1.3 percent, to 4,592.74. While drivers filling up at gas stations are welcoming lower oil prices, investors are getting worried about the consequences of the slump, which has pushed the oil down by more than half in six months. On Tuesday, the price of oil fell \$2.11 to \$47.93, its lowest level since April 2009. If prices stay low, some companies in the energy industry will go out of business because the cost of extracting oil will exceed its price. Not only will that cost jobs, it will lead to lower spending on plants and equipment. On Tuesday, U.S. Steel said it will temporarily lay off about 750 employees from two plants that make tubular steel used in oil and

for a fourth straight month in November, stoking investors' concerns about growth. Factory orders dropped 0.7 percent in November after falling by the same amount in October, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. The weakness was due to lower demand for primary metals, industrial machinery and military aircraft. The Institute for Supply Management said Tuesday that its services index fell to 56.2 last month, down from 59.3 in November. For some, the drop in bond yields is worrying because it signals a move toward falling prices, or deflation. Lower prices may seem attractive, but they can damage a country's growth. Consumers and businesses can start cutting back spending as they wait for prices to drop further. Oil prices "are adding to the fear of deflation spreading to the global economy," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Rockwell Global Capital. "That's what the real fear is all about."



Specialist Michael Pistillo, left, trader Edward Schreier, right, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015. The U.S. stock market is edging higher in early trading as the price of oil extends its slump.
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

the mood of investors. "Oil prices falling is a good thing for the economy overall," said Randy Frederick, managing director of trading and derivatives with the Schwab Center for Financial Research. "But there is a point when they fall far enough that it could

gas drilling. The Pittsburgh-based company said it is making the moves in response to lower oil prices and competition from foreign companies. Investors also got some discouraging news on the economy. Orders to U.S. factories fell

Bond prices, meanwhile, are rallying in part because U.S. yields, even at their low levels, are attractive to overseas investors. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which falls when prices rise, dropped to 1.96 percent from 2.03 percent on Monday. □



This photo shows a Coach retailer on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, Calif. Luxury handbag and accessories company Coach is expanding its footwear collection, buying Stuart Weitzman Holdings LLC from private equity firm Sycamore Partners for about \$530 million, according to reports, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015.
(AP Photo/Reed Saxon)

If the shoe fits: Coach buying Stuart Weitzman for \$530M

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Retail Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Coach is expanding its footwear collection. The luxury handbag and accessories company is buying Stuart Weitzman Holdings LLC from private equity firm Sycamore Partners for about \$530 million. Coach Inc. will also make up to \$44 million in contingent payments to Sycamore Partners if certain revenue targets are hit over the three years after the deal closes. The deal is expected to bolster Coach's image while creating growth opportunities as it struggles to turn around its brand under new CEO Victor Luis, who took the post in January 2014. For Stuart Weitzman, the deal will expand its business overseas. It's a rare acquisition for Coach, which has long grown internally. While analysts praised the deal, some worry that it could be a distraction to its core business, especially when efforts so far to rework the designs haven't seen much traction. "(Coach) may have been better served keeping its sole focus on its own transformation, of which we are seeing some progress, but believe still has many legs to unfold," wrote Randal J. Konik, equities analyst at Jefferies in a report published Tuesday. Coach has been suffering as shoppers have defected to brands like Michael Kors

and Kate Spade for handbags that are edgier but are priced similarly. Coach has had five straight quarters of sales declines including the last quarter ended Sept. 27 when total sales were down nearly 10 percent. North American sales fell 19 percent for the quarter. But this past holiday shopping season, the intensity of promotions of handbags increased, according to a Credit Suisse report. In fact, Michael Kors' shares dropped nearly 11 percent Tuesday after Credit Suisse's Christian Buss reduced the company's stock rating, citing an increase in discounting at the brand this holiday season. Coach previously announced it plans to close about 70 underperforming stores in fiscal 2015. Last year, the company hired British designer Stuart Vevers to inject new life into the brand. His debut handbag collection for Coach hit stores last September. Coach has been trying to diversify, but handbags still account for the bulk of its business. For the year ended June 28, 2014, women's handbags accounted for 55 percent of total annual sales of \$4.8 billion, while other products like footwear and jewelry made up 9 percent of total sales. Women's accessories, which include cosmetic bags, made up 22 percent of its total business, while men's products accounted for 14 percent, according to its regulatory filings. □

The Age of Bibi



DAVID BROOKS
© 2015 New York Times

METULA, Israel - If I were a political novelist, I'd try to write a novel about Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel.

The story would be partly Nixonian. Netanyahu is surpassingly brilliant, as even his opponents here concede. He knows the minute guts of Israeli politics and has read deeply into big history and grand strategy. He is also said to be suspicious, solitary and insular. It is hard to stay on good terms with him, whether you are on his staff or his nation's closest ally.

The story would be partly Kennedyesque. The Netanyahu clan was presided over by Benjamin's brilliant father, Benzion, the great medieval historian. The eldest brother, Jonathan, was the golden child. When Jonathan died in the raid on Entebbe in 1976, hopes shifted to Benjamin, who is known as Bibi. Political analysts have spent decades psychoanalyzing the family dynamic, with mixed results, but a novelist who studied Sophocles or Tolstoy might be able to make some sense of it.

The story would be partly Churchillian. Netanyahu sees himself in world historical terms and admires Theodor Herzl and Winston Churchill - two men who saw dangers ahead of other people. Netanyahu obviously lacks many of Churchill's qualities, like playful charm, but he has a profound nationalist passion and a consuming historical consciousness.

Like Churchill, he is wisest when things are going wrong. He has been a pessimist about the Arab world. As the Arab Spring has deteriorated, as Palestinian democracy led to Hamas, as run-of-the-mill extremists have lost ground to the Islamic State, Bibi's instincts have basically been proved correct.

The story would be part Shakespearean. Nearly every political leader has one close friend or spouse, often female, who is widely hated. People can't blame the leader for slights, so they blame her. In Israel, the role is played by Netanyahu's wife, Sara, who has been the subject of fascination and scorn for decades: She is often described as Lady Macbeth. Few know her exact role, but, it is said, she exiles

the disloyal, shapes his politics, mistreats servants and distracts him when he is supposed to be running the country. Obviously, any novel about Netanyahu and modern Israel would have to be told from her vantage point. The narrative voice would be electric.

The story would be part "Citizen Kane." Netanyahu rose to fame via CNN. His rise and survival are intertwined with changes in media, with the decline of old newspapers that are generally hostile, and the rise of new cable networks and outlets that are often his allies. Ferociously tending his image, his wars with his foes in the Israeli press have been epic. Finally, the story would be part Machiavelli. The great Renaissance philosopher argued that it is best to be both loved and feared, but if you have to choose one, it is better to be feared. Netanyahu is not loved, especially by those in his party. But he is feared and acknowledged, the way any large, effective object is feared and respected.

I'm visiting Israel for the 18th or 19th time (my son is currently a member of the Lone Soldiers Program, which allows people from around the world to serve in the Israeli military). I asked a couple of smart Israelis what their coming elections are about. They said the elections are about one thing: What do you think of Netanyahu? Such is the outsized role he plays in the consciousness of this nation.

No one has a simple view of him. To some, he is a monster who has expanded the settlements on the West Bank, which are a moral stain and do calamitous damage to Israel's efforts to win support around the world. To some, he is the necessary man in hard times, the vigilant guardian as the rest of the Middle East goes berserk.

Both viewpoints have some truth. To me, his caution is most fascinating. For all his soaring rhetoric and bellicosity, he has been a defensive leader. He seems to understand that, in his country's situation, the lows are lower than the highs are high. The costs of a mistake are bigger than the benefits of an accomplishment. So he is loath to take risks. He doesn't do some smart things, like improve life for Palestinians on the West Bank, but he doesn't do unpredictable dumb things, like prematurely bomb Iran. He talks everything through, and his decisions shift and flip as the discussions evolve.

If you think trends in the Middle East will doom Israel unless it acts, then this defensiveness is a disaster. If you think, as I do, that Israel has to wait out the current spasm of Islamist radicalism, then this caution has its uses.

Israeli voters haven't warmed to Netanyahu over the past quarter-century. But they have come to think more like him, accepting that this conflict will endure, digging in for a dogged struggle. For good and ill, he has refashioned the national mind. □



In 2016 Race, It's Hillary Versus History



GAIL COLLINS
© 2015 New York Times

When Hillary Clinton thinks about running for president, do you think she contemplates the fact that no Democrat has been elected to succeed another Democrat since James Buchanan in 1856?

We bring you this factoid in honor of the beginning of the 2016 election season. (Only 55 weeks until the New Hampshire primary!) We've got so much time. It's the perfect moment for random irrelevant trivia about presidential elections of the past. Which, to be honest, is my favorite part. Consider that succession information for a minute. We have had Democratic vice presidents step into office when the Democratic president died. But the voters haven't gone to the polls and elected one Democrat to follow another since before the Civil War.

What do you think this means? Actually, there weren't all that many Republicans who were elected to succeed Republicans either. Particularly if you acknowledge that Rutherford B. Hayes stole the election from Samuel Tilden. James Garfield did it, but then he was assassinated. William Howard Taft followed Theodore Roosevelt, and then Roosevelt came to hate Taft so much that he ran as a third-party candidate in 1912, throwing the election to Woodrow Wilson.

Herbert Hoover succeeded Calvin Coolidge, and we know how well that one worked out. Finally, George H.W. Bush was elected after Ronald Reagan.

Wow, think about that. The only president elected to follow a member of his own party without creating some sort of cosmic disaster was George H.W. Bush. No wonder he always looks so cheerful.

These factoids refer only to elections between Republicans and Democrats. Even with nearly two years to go (but seven months until the Iowa straw poll!), we don't have enough time to deal with the Whigs. Our two current parties began duking it out in - yes! - 1856, when Buchanan ran against the first Republican presidential candidate, John Charles Frémont. Frémont was an explorer whose political enemies claimed had resorted to cannibalism during one unfortunate Western expedition. I am just telling you this to make it clear how interesting U.S. history can be.

Anyhow, Buchanan won and went on triumphantly to become possibly the worst president ever. Almost every chief executive in American history has his defenders. I had a very nice time last year talking with people who feel Warren Harding hasn't been given his due. But you very seldom run into fans of Buchanan, the man who cozied up to slaveholders and failed to stop Southern secession.

"He was terrible," said Jean Baker, a professor of history at Goucher College and Buchanan biographer. This despite arriving in office with one of the best résumés in the history of presidential candidates: Buchanan had been a congressman, envoy to Russia, senator, secretary of state and minister to Britain. "He was sitting around waiting and waiting with the best CV of any president we've ever had. That's what's so ironic," Baker said.

Did I mention that Buchanan was also the last former secretary of

state elected president?

I don't think Clinton-Buchanan commonalities are likely to be a big concern. Liberals worry that Hillary might be overly aggressive when it comes to foreign policy; I don't think anybody thinks she'd sit on her hands and let any states secede. (Only 58 weeks until the South Carolina primary!)

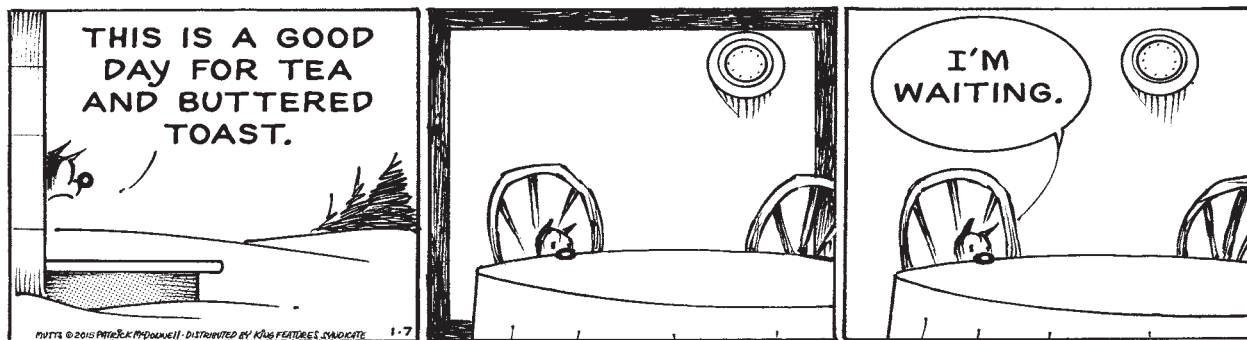
Still, it never hurts to push a little random presidential history into the mix, if only to liven things up for the next year or so. Any suggestions? I am in the market for some comparisons between Ted Cruz and Millard Fillmore.

But about James Buchanan: Baker thinks his unwillingness to stand up to the South was because, at least partly, of his close friendships with Southern politicians. (He described the abolition movement as "weak, powerless and soon to be forgotten" and referred to white men from the South as "the chivalrous race.") Buchanan roomed with William King of Alabama during their Senate days, and the pair were so close that people referred to them as "Siamese twins." King went on to become the only bachelor vice president, under Franklin Pierce. Buchanan, you may recall, was our only bachelor president.

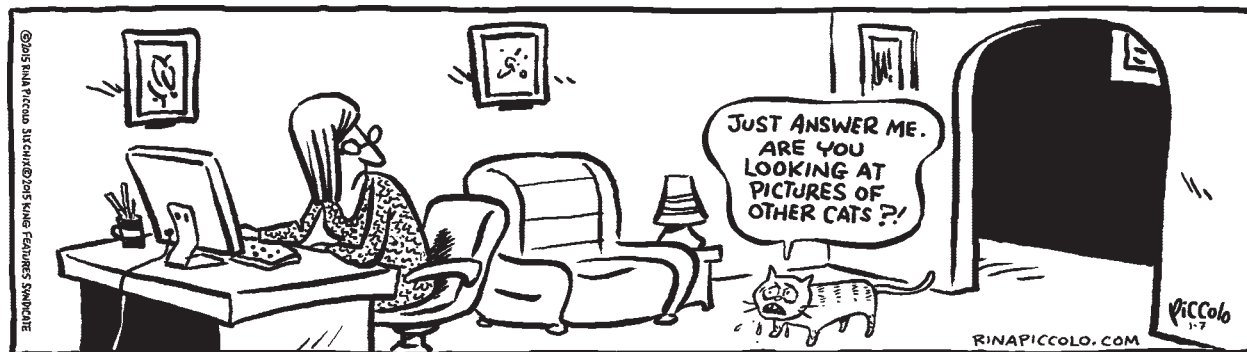
Baker said that when she was writing her book on Buchanan, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., her editor, demanded that she "take a position on whether he was gay or not." She demurred. Buchanan never said, and he spent a great deal of time pretending to be courting various widows, none of whom managed to get him anywhere near the altar. Baker wishes she could have said for sure: "It would have been one of the few things I could present as positive about James Buchanan."

Well, he was kind to his nephews and nieces. He had two pet bald eagles, which sounds sort of interesting. And he was the only president who hailed from Pennsylvania. Perhaps I should point out that Joe Biden was born in Scranton. □

Mutts



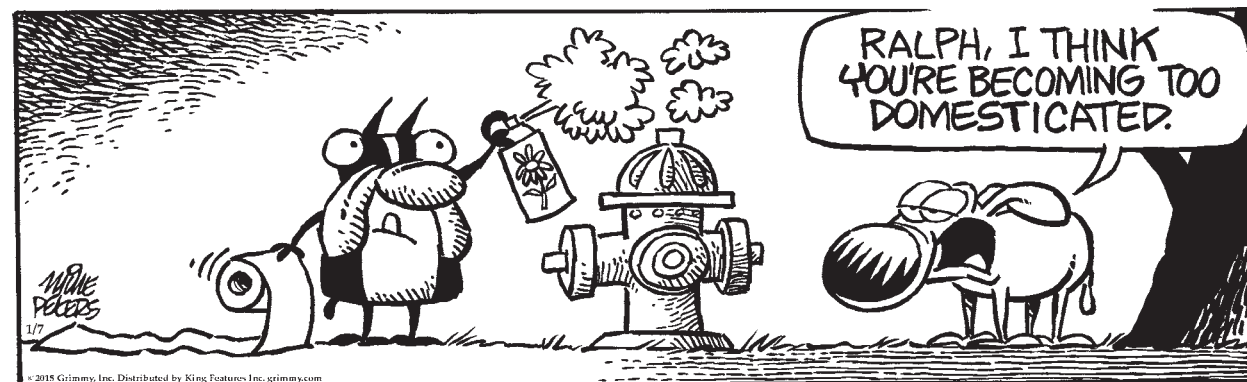
6 Chix



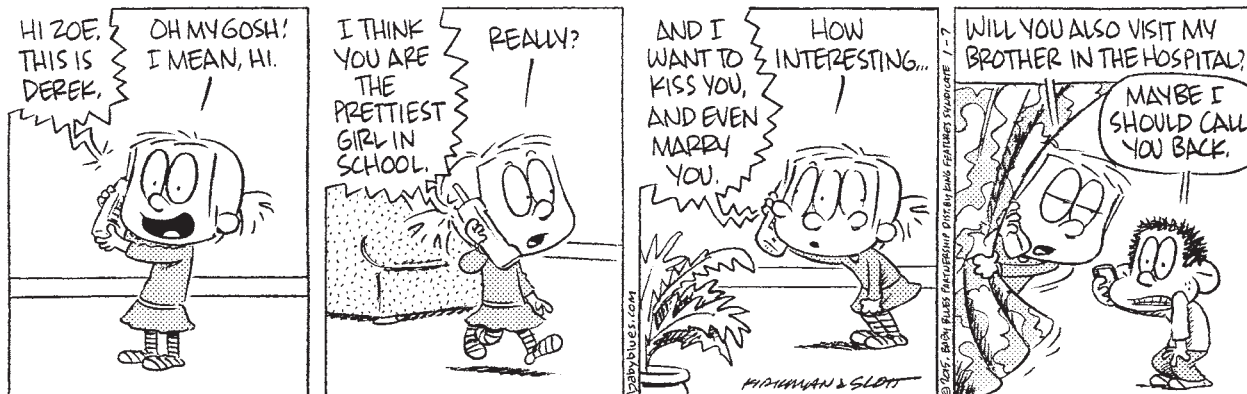
Blondie



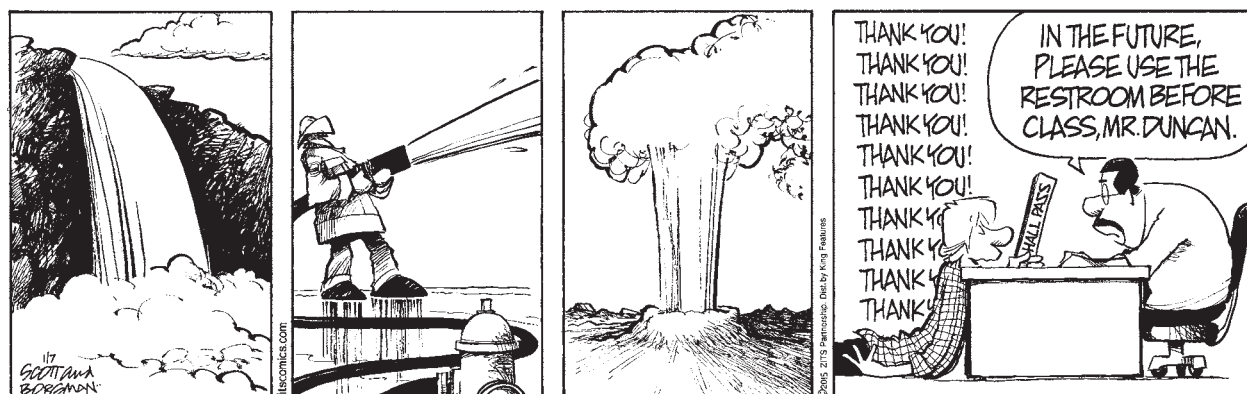
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	3	5	2					
7				1		9	6	
6			3		8			
1		3		5	2			
	7		1	3		8		
		9	4		6	1		
	4			2	5		1	6
	6					2	9	
						7		

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

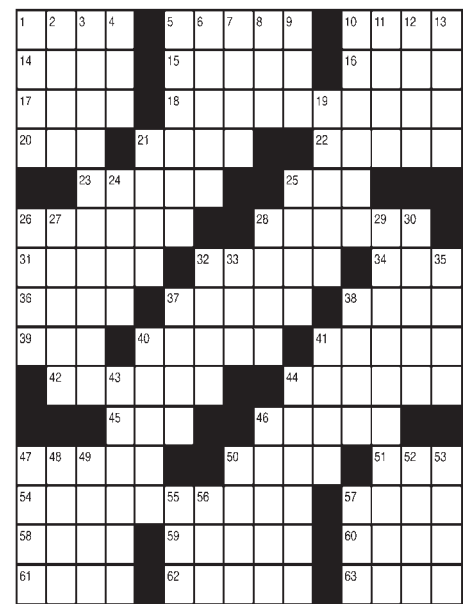
1/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concepts Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	6	7	4	2	9	1	3	8	5
	8	1	3	5	7	4	9	6	2
	2	5	9	6	3	8	7	4	1
	9	3	7	8	5	2	6	1	4
	5	4	2	3	1	6	8	7	9
	1	8	6	7	4	9	5	2	3
	7	9	1	4	6	3	2	5	8
	4	6	8	9	2	5	1	3	7
	3	2	5	1	8	7	4	9	6

ACROSS

- 1 Wines & dines
5 Thin piece of
leather
10 Snatch
14 Sixty minutes
15 Clear the slate
16 Actor's part
17 ___ for; selects
18 Sailor's beacon
20 Burro
21 Escape
22 ___ the blue; _____
seemingly from
nowhere
23 Stubborn
animals
25 Declare illegal
26 Slip-on shoe
28 Singer Lightfoot
31 Bow and ___;
Cupid's props
32 ___ with; beg
34 Doggy doc
36 Dyers' tubs
37 ___ the town



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/7/15

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

B	E	D		S	C	A	L	D		W	I	F	E			
E	X	A	M		A	R	G	U	E		H	O	R	N		
G	E	N	E		H	E	E	L	S		O	W	E	D		
	S	K	E	D		A	A	D	D	L	E		O	A	T	S
				T	O	R	O			R	E	P				
S	A	L	I	V	A			P	A	T	R	I	O	T	S	
T	W	I	N	E		B	O	W	E	R		W	H	O		
R	A	N	G		F	I	L	E	D		S	L	O	B		
A	R	E		F	I	E	L	D		G	E	E	S	E		
P	E	D	D	L	E	R	S		T	E	E	T	E	R		
				R	U	N				S	O	A	K			
I	T	S	A		D	I	S	P	A	R	I	T	Y			
R	O	O	M		I	N	C	A	S		N	O	O	N		
O	F	F	A		S	T	A	R	T		G	A	G	A		
N	U	T	S		H	O	M	E	Y			D	A	Y		

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- DOWN

- 1 "___, Nellie!"
2 Fumbler's word
3 Got the better
of
4 Twelfth-
graders: abbr.

- 5 One who lists
on eBay
6 Endeavors
7 In a ; irate
8 __ Wednesday;
2/18/15
9 Teacher's
favorite
10 __ beef;
hamburger
11 Overwhelming
defeat
12 In addition
13 Complaint
14 Hidden supply
21 Piloted
24 Eerie saucers,
for short
25 Dory or dinghy
26 Volcanic output
27 Give a speech
28 Trait
transmitter
29 Exaggerates
30 Approaches
32 Couple
33 Trash can top
35 Cafeteria
patron's item

- 48 Hockey score
49 Guitar of old
50 ___-out; shabby
52 Yellowstone
National ___
53 Therefore
55 Skinny ___ rail
56 Pupil carrier
57 " ___ Lazy River"

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NASA finds more Earth-like planets outside solar system

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Earth has a few more near-twin planets outside our solar system, tantalizing possibilities in the search for extra-terrestrial life.

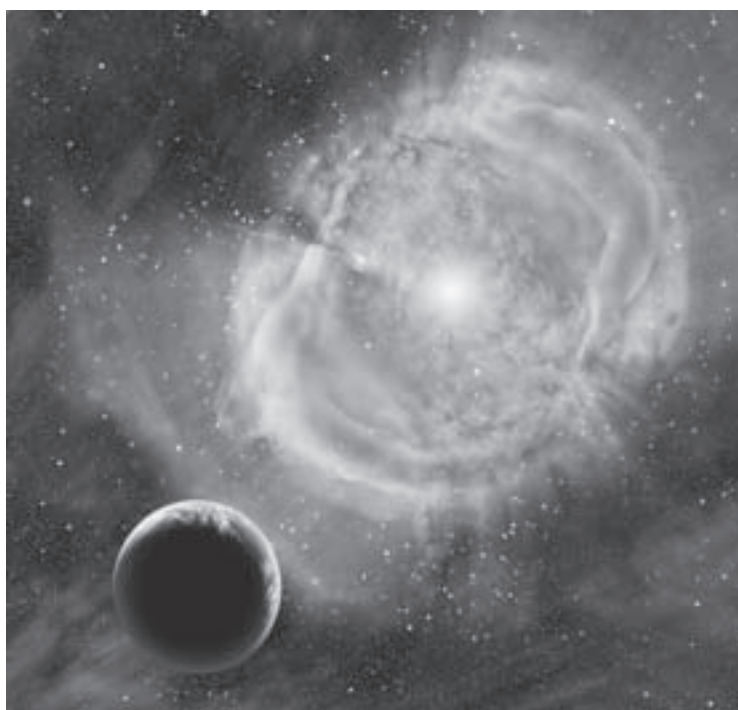
Astronomers announced Tuesday that depending on definitions, they have confirmed three or four more planets that are about the same size as Earth and are in the not-too-hot, not-too-cold "Goldilocks Zone" for liquid water to form.

These planets are likely to be rocky like Earth, and not gas giants or ice worlds. They get about the same heat from their star as we get from the sun, according to the latest results from NASA's planet hunting Kepler telescope.

But don't book your flights yet.

They may be close to Earth in size and likely temperature in the gargantuan scale of the universe, but they aren't quite close enough for comfort.

Consider two of the new



This artist's conception provided by the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics depicts an Earth-like planet orbiting an evolved star that has formed a stunning "planetary nebula." Associated Press

planets, the nearest to Earth discovered to date. If they have atmospheres similar to Earth's — a big if — one would be a toasty 140 some degrees and the other would hover around zero, said study lead author Guillermo Torres, an

astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

Life conceivably could evolve and adapt to those temperatures, he said.

Oh, and they aren't actually within commuting distance of Earth. Those two are 500 and 1,100 light years away; a light year is 5.9 trillion miles.

What's important, said SETI Institute astronomer Douglas Caldwell, a study co-author who presented the findings at the American Astronomical Society meeting in Seattle, is that astronomers are a bit closer to finding twins of Earth and answering the age-old

question: Are we alone?

"These planets do exist; we didn't know that before," Torres said in a phone interview from Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"What we're really looking for is signs of life eventually. We're not there yet. It will take many years but this is the first step."

Torres' team confirmed earlier discoveries and added new ones, bringing the total known number of planets that are no bigger than twice Earth's size and in the habitable temperature zone to eight or nine. But that's only from a short search of a small part of our galaxy, so Torres believes that Earth-like planets are common throughout the cosmos, though he cannot prove it yet.

Torres likes to include one planet that would bump the new findings from three to four, but Caldwell said that planet may or may not be habitable.

It doesn't matter much. "We do not need to talk about the one or two exo-

planets that could be like Earth, we are finding so many," said Lisa Kaltenegger, director of Cornell University's Pale Blue Dot Institute. She wasn't part of the study.

Torres and Caldwell highlighted the two new planets that are closest in size to Earth.

The closest, called Kepler 438-b, is only 12 percent larger than Earth and gets about 40 percent more energy from its star than we do from the sun, so it would probably be warmer, Torres said.

It tightly circles a small cooler red star with its year lasting only 35 Earth days and the sun in its sky would be red, not yellow.

It may hot, but "there are bacteria on Earth that live very comfortably in those temperatures, no problem," Torres said.

The other, Kepler 442-b, is about 34 percent bigger than Earth but gets only two-thirds of the energy from its sun as we do, Torres said. □

Australia swelters through its third-hottest year in 2014

ROD MCGUIRK

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— Australia sweltered through its third-hottest year on record in 2014, following a record hot 2013, weather authorities reported Tuesday.

The southern spring from September through November last year was Australia's hottest on record, the government's Bureau of Meteorology said in its annual climate statement. The hot spring has set the stage for the current summer wildfire season to start early,

with dozens of homes destroyed and thousands of residents evacuated from fire danger zones across southern and western Australia in recent days.

Seven of Australia's 10 hottest years since national records started in 1910 have occurred since 2002, the statement said.

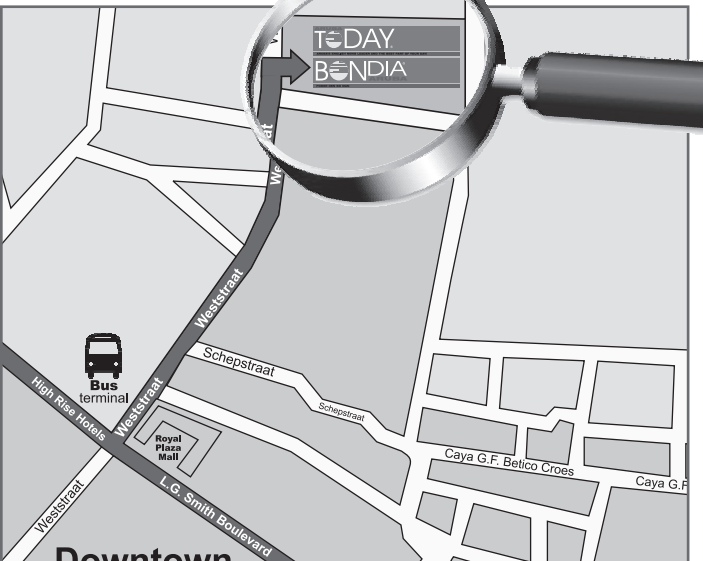
Australia's second hottest year was 2005.

The independently funded Climate Council think-tank said the statement showed that climate change was making Australia hotter and more prone to wildfires. □

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A slimmed-down 'American Idol' returns for season 14

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

"American Idol" is practicing addition and subtraction in its 14th season.

Longtime judge, short-time mentor Randy Jackson is gone. Music executive Scott Borchetta, whose impressive credentials include acting as mentor to Taylor Swift, will play that role for contestants and the winner will be signed to Borchetta's Big Machine Records. There's another shake up ahead for the series, which returns with an hour-long episode Wednesday (8 p.m. EST) and a two-hour episode Thursday (8 p.m. EST): Starting with the live shows in mid-March, "American Idol" will cut back to a two-hour show once a week, on Wednesday.

It's a logical move given the aging show's ratings decline in an increasingly competitive entertainment landscape, said analyst Brad Adgate of Horizon Media. "American Idol" dipped last season to an all-time low weekly average of 10.2 million viewers, according to Nielsen company figures.

That's about a third of the 30.2 million the singing contest hit at its peak in 2006, when Taylor Hicks claimed



In this Dec. 9, 2014 file photo, from left, singer Keith Urban, singer and actress Jennifer Lopez, and singer Harry Connick, Jr. arrive on set of American Idol XIV in Los Angeles.

Associated Press.

the title over runner-up Katharine McPhee. But "Idol" remains a relatively strong performer for Fox, one the network seeks to protect, Adgate said.

"Whatever audience erosion will happen this year will be mitigated by limiting the show to one night," he said.

It's only fair to viewers to reduce the demand on their time, said executive producer Trish Kinane, given that the once-unique

"American Idol" is now part of a flood of talent shows, including NBC's popular "The Voice."

"To commit to three hours a week for our or any other of the shows is too much, even if you adore these (talent) shows," she said.

The compressed schedule will allow for a better program, one that combines performances with the results of viewer voting for the previous week's competition, Kinane said.

All the contestants will be on hand for the live episodes, "dressed, ready and with their songs rehearsed," only to find out who is being eliminated, according to Kinane.

The results won't be announced at the beginning of the show, but in a "more dramatic way," she said, holding details back for now.

The show will retain a familiar look. Ryan Seacrest, the sole original cast member,

is returning as host, and Harry Connick Jr., Jennifer Lopez and Keith Urban will be back for their second year together as judges.

All that's needed now is the kind of compelling contestants and future stars that "American Idol" has discovered in the past, including Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood and Jennifer Hudson.

"If I have a criticism of the show for us last year, it is that we haven't found, in the last two years, a group of kids who have captured the imagination of the public," Peter Rice, chairman and CEO of Fox Networks Group, told a news conference after the 2014 season's conclusion.

That bar will be met, Kinane said, with outstanding performers discovered in auditions held in Nashville, Tennessee; New Orleans; San Francisco; and elsewhere. She offered hints about one contestant, whom she described "as a girl who had never sung in public before the first audition" but ended up in the top 24. "She's really good, but whether she'll win or not is unsure because she's quite raw. Can her raw talent develop through the process" is the question, Kinane said. As is the performance of "American Idol" itself.

Faris and Janney to host the People's Choice Awards

MIKE CIDONI LENNOX

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Anna Faris sums up her feelings about the People's Choice Awards in a single word.

"Terror," says the actress, who will co-host the 41st annual awards, airing live Wednesday from the Nokia Theatre, with her "Mom" co-star Allison Janney (9 p.m. EST on CBS).

"We don't know what we're doing," Janney added as she sat with Faris for a brief interview recently on the set of their CBS sitcom. "We've never hosted a show before. I think they're crazy for having picked us.

And we're going to prove it," Janney continued with a laugh as Faris giggled beside her.

Previous experience with the People's Choice Awards, which polls the public for its popular-culture picks, doesn't bode well for the two actresses. Each has been nominated once, last year. And each lost.

And yet "Faris and Janney," as Janney calls them, has emerged as a successful, if unlikely, team.

Before the 2013 debut of "Mom," now in its second season, the 38-year-old Faris starred in six big-

screen blockbusters — all comedies. The diminutive blonde's calling card is the 2008 box-office hit "The House Bunny," in which she starred as an over-the-hill Playboy model who gets the boot from the mansion and finds success as a sorority house mother.

Janney, 55, has a resume that includes Tony nominations, key dramatic film roles in such projects as the Oscar-winning "American Beauty" and six Emmy wins — four for the seven seasons she played White House Press Secretary C.J. Cregg on "The West Wing" and two more Emmys last



In this Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014 file photo, co-hosts Anna Faris, left, and Allison Janney pose together following the nominations for the People's Choice Awards 2015, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

year for her guest role as a long-suffering gay man's wife on "Masters of Sex" and for her work with Faris on "Mom."

Forget comparisons to other popular comedy teams.

"I like to think that, as opposed to one of us being the straight person, one of us being the funny person, that we're both the insane people — just at different moments," Faris said.



In this Dec. 18, 2014, file photo, Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting arrives at The People Magazine Awards at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting apologizes for comments on feminism

NICOLE EVATT
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kaley Cuoco (KWOH'-koh)-Sweeting says she's sorry if people were offended by her recent comments on feminism.

The 29-year-old actress was quoted in Redbook magazine as saying she enjoys cooking for and "serving" her husband, Ryan Sweeting, and was "never that feminist girl demanding equality."

In an interview Monday for her upcoming film, "The Wedding Ringer," Cuoco-Sweeting said her answers

were taken out of context. She said she simply meant that she feels lucky "to have a career, really build myself as an independent woman ... be able to serve my husband and have a family."

She also said she never wants to offend anyone, "but it happens and I'm really sorry."

Cuoco-Sweeting stars with Kevin Hart and Josh Gad in "Wedding Ringer," a comedy about a best man-for-hire.

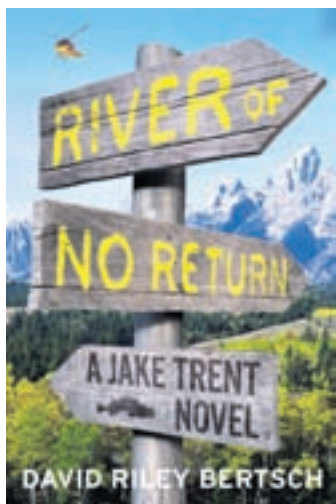
She also stars on CBS' "The Big Bang Theory." □

Review: Fishing guide plunges into evildoings in thriller

Associated Press

"River of No Return" (Scribner), by David Riley Bertsch Vivid scenery and a likable protagonist mark the second book in a series by David Riley Bertsch.

In "River of No Return," Wyoming fishing guide Jake Trent, a former Department of Justice operative with a violent past that has left him emotionally scarred, must deal with a vixen who tries to lure him back to Washington, with the kidnapping of his friend's girlfriend and with a nefarious population-control plot. □



This photo provided by Scribner - Simon & Schuster, Inc. shows the book cover of "River of No Return," by author David Riley Bertsch.

Associated Press

'The Interview' digital grosses total \$31 million, Sony says



This photo released by Sony - Columbia Pictures shows James Franco, left, as Dave and Seth Rogen as Aaron in a scene from Columbia Pictures' "The Interview."

NEW YORK (AP) — Sony Pictures Entertainment says that "The Interview" has made more than \$31 million from its online and on-demand release.

The studio Tuesday announced digital figures for the film spanning its first 11 days of release since opening Dec. 24.

Sony had previously said the film made \$15 million in its first four days online, so demand for the Seth Rogen comedy has slightly declined as Sony has added more platforms.

Initial plans to release the comedy, about an assassination attempt on the leader of North Ko-

rea, were thwarted when threats aimed at theaters were made.

Sony has steadily increased digital operators. While \$31 million constitutes the most lucrative digital release for a Hollywood film, "The Interview" stood to make more in a wide theatrical release. □

Jimmy Carter to present Dylan with person of the year honor



This July 22, 2012 file photo shows U.S. singer-songwriter Bob Dylan performing on stage at "Les Vieilles Charrues" Festival in Carhaix, western France.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter will present Bob Dylan with the 2015 MusiCares Person of the Year honor next month in Los Angeles.

The Recording Academy announced Tuesday that Bruce Springsteen, Willie Nelson and Jack White will perform at the pre-Grammy event on Feb. 6 at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

The star-studded gala will also include performances by Jackson Browne, Alanis Morissette, Neil Young, Beck, Norah Jones, the Black Keys, Stills & Nash and John Mellencamp, among others.

Past MusiCares Person of the Year honorees include Bono, Tony Bennett, Aretha Franklin, Billy Joel and Quincy Jones. The event is in its 25th year. □

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